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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Michael Jackson trial: A Los Angeles judge has denied a request for a contempt citation against journalist Martin Bashir, who produced the documentary "Living With Michael Jackson" in 2003 and in the past week followed up with two more TV specials.

Court documents released Friday do not give a reason for Judge Rodney Melville's decision on the defense request, which argued that Bashir violated the court's gag order prohibiting him, as a witness, from making public statements in the 46-year-old pop star's child molestation case.

Bush heads for Europe: President Bush set out Sunday on a European trip to strengthen ties with allies after sharp disagreements over the war in Iraq.

The president is making stops in Belgium, Germany and Slovakia over five days. He will attend NATO and European Union meetings and hold separate meetings with three of the most vocal critics of the U.S.-led war in Iraq: French President Jacques Chirac, German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

World

Gays in the church: Leaders of the global Anglican Communion meet this week in Northern Ireland to continue a debate on gay bishops, a dispute in which no yet discerns a solution.

"There will be no cost-free outcome from this," Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams told the Church of England's governing body last week.

The primates, or leaders of the 38 national churches that comprise the communion, are meeting this week at the Dromantine Retreat and Conference Center, a Roman Catholic facility near Newry, Northern Ireland.

Polio immunizations: Indian health authorities will launch a new offensive to eradicate polio after the crippling disease threatened to resurface in several states and in slums across New Delhi, an official said Sunday.

India has made enormous gains in combating polio over the past three decades.

But authorities have identified five states and slum clusters in the national capital as areas at risk of a resurgence of polio after three reported cases this year, an official said on condition of anonymity.

Political unrest in Haiti: Heavily armed gunmen attacked Haiti's national pentiten-



Ex-presidents view tsunami devastation: Former Presidents George H.W. Bush, left, and Bill Clinton visit the USS Fort McHenry, which is involved in rebuilding efforts in Aceh Province during their tour the tsunami affected areas in Indonesia Sunday. The two former presidents, who are leading private U.S. tsunami aid efforts, earlier met with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and said they came away reassured that Indonesia would channel aid funds in a transparent, effective way. "Nothing turns private donors off more than if they saw waste, or fraud, or something like that," Bush said. "But we don't anticipate that."

ry Saturday, killing one guard in a shootout that allowed some prisoners to escape, Haitian and U.N. peacekeeping officials said.

Guards rushed two jailed allies of ousted leader President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to a secret location when inmates began rioting.

Damian Onses-Cardona, a spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping force, said former Prime Minister Yvon Neptune and former Interior Minister Jocelerme Privert were later turned over to U.N. soldiers.

Authorities were investigating whether the attack was aimed at freeing Neptune and Privert, but neither man tried to get away, Onses-Cardona said.

Syria-Lebanon relations: Syrian political activists called for a Syrian troop withdrawal from neighboring Lebanon in the wake of the assassination of former Lebanese premier Rafik Hariri, but expressed concern Sunday at the level of anti-Syrian protests in Lebanon.

The call comes amid intense international pressure on Syria to withdraw some 15,000 troops from neighboring Lebanon amid speculation that Damascus and the pro-Syrian Lebanese government had a hand in Har-

iri's Feb. 14 killing. Both governments have denied the charge.

Taiwan independence: China on Sunday expressed concern over military cooperation between the United States and Japan and attacked their joint statement on Taiwan as an unwelcome intrusion into Chinese affairs.

U.S. and Japanese officials meeting in Washington on Saturday listed "the peaceful resolution" of the Taiwan issue as a strategic objective and reaffirmed the two countries' security arrangements.

War on terrorism

Kidnapped Italian journalist: Waving rainbow peace flags, tens of thousands of demonstrators marched through the streets of central Rome on Saturday to press for the release of an Italian journalist abducted in Iraq earlier this month.

The somber march came days after 56-year-old Giuliana Sgrena was seen in a wrenching video.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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Constructing a new look for Okinawa bases

By DAVID ALLEN

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Marine bases on Okinawa are in the middle of a major face lift.

A former single-family housing area behind the Camp Foster exchange complex and post office is to be razed soon to make way for wider roads and multiplexes.

And new buildings are replacing older structures across Foster and the northern Marine camps, said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Mike Williamson, Public Works officer for Marine Corps Bases Japan. By this time next year, both camps Hansen and Schwab should be home to brand-new concrete mini malls and food courts.

They'll have an Army and Air Force Exchange Service retail store, military clothing sales, barber shops and laundries, according to project information Williamson released. The food courts will offer Burger King, Popeye's Chicken & Biscuits, Baskin 31 Robbins and Dunkin' Donuts and will feature an amusement area.

A look at some of the building that is going on throughout Camp Hansen:

■ A two-story administration building, to become headquarters for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, is to be completed by August.

■ An environmental office hazardous material center is to be completed by April.

■ A Headquarters and Service Battalion maintenance shop is to be finished by July.

■ A Gate One security upgrade is to be completed soon.

■ A base truck company administrative



DAVID ALLEN/Stars and Stripes

Work is about 65 percent complete on a tunnel under Highway 330 that will connect two separate sections of Camp Foster. An officer in charge of construction said the tunnel should be finished next October.

and automotive shop is to be occupied in March.

■ An administrative building to be connected to Building 2814 and a Facility Maintenance Office maintenance building are to be completed later this year.

But Camp Foster is getting the most visible face lift, Williamson said, with two nine-story apartment towers to be completed by May and occupied starting this summer. The towers' opening will conclude the Sada Housing Area transformation, which

saw the multiplexes and single family homes built in the 1950s razed and replaced by 194 townhouse units and the towers' 136 three- and four-bedroom units.

The new housing is part of a plan to close all of Camp Lester as part of a U.S. blueprint eventually to return to Okinawa 21 percent of the land as new U.S. housing. The camp now hosts family housing and the U.S. Naval Hospital, which eventually is to be relocated to Camp Foster.

Razing of the Chutan Housing units behind the exchange and post office, to begin later this month, is to be completed in May, Williamson said. Part of the area will be used for the west end of a tunnel to connect Camp Foster's main section to the headquarters building area and Kishiba Housing.

Also at that time, Arkansas and Montana streets are to be straightened, forcing closure of the rail crossing. The exchange area to Guadalcanal Road, Williamson said the tunnel, about 65 percent complete, should be finished by November.

Being built behind the Foster Field House is a 4,900-square-foot gymnasium. Scheduled for January completion, it's to have a combination basketball-volleyball court, 10 indoor playing courts, special event rooms, a weight room, martial arts rooms, fitness and aerobics rooms, locker rooms, steam and sauna rooms, a jacuzzi and administrative offices.

And, Williamson said, the Macaroni Grill Restaurant, a Marine Corps Community Services project, is to be built next to WestPac Inn.

E-mail David Allen at: allen@spstrs.esd.mil

50-year employee will work 'as long as the Army will have me'

By TERI WEAVER

Stars and Stripes

YONGSANG GARRISON — Ku Cha-Yun knows about marriage. His own has lasted 43 years and produced four children, who in turn have produced four more marriages and seven grandchildren.

Ku's own family is just the beginning. Each year since 1991, he has helped about 400 couples get married through his job at the Legal Assistance Office here at the U.S. military's headquarters base in Korea.

Even that, however, is just a small part of Ku's legacy to relationships. Ku, 66, has worked for the U.S. military in Korea for more than five decades. It's a bond that he sees lasting as long as his bosses will allow.

"This is the first job I've worked, and the last job," Ku said a few times during a half-hour interview last week.

He celebrated his 50th anniversary with USFK at a December meeting with USFK Commander Gen. Leon LaPorte. The Korean keeps on his desk a picture of himself, his wife and children. It's the only family portrait on display in his office.

Ku began his career with the United States during the early part of the Korean War. He escaped from North Korea in 1950 as a young teenager. Leaving be-

hind his mother and brother, he crossed the 38th parallel with an uncle just a few years older.

They made it to an island outside Inchon but got separated, Ku remembers. He took a fishing boat to the mainland and never heard what happened to anyone in his family. "I cannot always control my emotions," he said last week, tearing up as he retold the story. "Since the war, I've never been in touch with them."

He also teared when he viewed the slide show, installed on his office computer, of the meeting with LaPorte. "I can tell when I was getting emotional," he said, looking at a picture of himself reading a brief statement in LaPorte's office a few days before Christmas.

By 1952, Ku found work as an ammunition clerk with the U.S. military in the Seoul area. He spoke almost no English, but managed to enroll in night classes. For the next seven years, he left work each night and walked miles first to high school, then college classes.

"I studied and studied," he said, recalling cramming during meal and even bathroom breaks. "I would dream in English. I tried to learn all the words."

Within two years, he was made an interpreter. It was this job, beginning in March 1954, that records show as his official anniversary with USFK. He also



TERI WEAVER/Stars and Stripes

Ku Cha-Yun has worked for USFK for 50 years, starting as a clerk for an ammunition unit and currently assisting the legal office.

has worked with housing, processing claims filed by people who move in and out of Korea.

Now he helps servicemen and women navigate Korean law, especially as it relates to marriages, births, adoptions, immigration, visa needs, even divorces. He also helps USFK in Area II with solicitation and condolence payments, money going to Koreans with family or property harmed by U.S. personnel.

"He is the main cog in the wheel," said Capt. Robert Vedra, head of the legal assistance office and among Ku's many bosses over the years. "He's one of the first people that the relatives come in contact with. The way he handles the incident can determine the way people feel in the future about USFK."

Ku said he likes his current job best. "My health is all right," he said. "As long as the Army will have me. It's my first and last job."

E-mail Teri Weaver at: weaver@spstrs.esd.mil

Kinnick students launch campaign for tsunami relief

By JULIANA GITTLE

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Nile C. Kinnick High School student council members are launching Belle in Relief, a two-week fund-raising campaign for victims of December's tsunami in South Asia.

The campaign, which runs Feb. 28 through March 11, is to include several programs to raise money for the American Red Cross tsunami relief fund. The council also intends to collect funds from other school organizations' activities, the first time school groups have worked collectively to raise money, said Rene Schofield, student council adviser.

"We've asked all the groups to participate," she said. Major events planned include a fund-raising basketball game between the undefeated high school boys varsity team and sailors from the USS Chancellorsville on March 4.

In mid-March, the student council will sponsor a bowl-a-thon open to the community. For the campaign's duration, students

are to collect change in the school courtyard during special events such as "Dig under the couch day" and "Don't be stingy day."

The student council raises money for charity each year. This year, after the South Asian tsunami killed tens of thousands of people, "We felt we really needed to get involved in the community," said Student Council President Joel Pettigrew, a senior.

"It shows we do care about the community," added Joyce Cao, recording secretary and a junior at the school.

Students also are to collect money through bake sales and other small events.

"Now is a good time because the initial wave of relief has moved on," Schofield said. "That's when the aid agencies have the greatest concern for support."

Fund-raising helps the students develop a sense of community and empathy, she added.

"The student council is always trying to get involved in the community. It's always a good idea to show you care."

E-mail Juliana Gittle at: gittle@spstrs.esd.mil

"Now is a good time because the initial wave of relief has moved on."

Rene Schofield

Student council adviser

Military health care an ordeal for Marine

Rehab is interrupted amid conflicts over recovery and role of military versus VA

BY AMY ARGETSINGER

The Washington Post

PHOENIX — When Marine Lance Cpl. Chris Shotwell developed dysentery in Iraq, the physicians attached to his unit were on the case immediately. Same thing when his elbow became infected from a desert bug bite. They fixed him up with antibiotics in no time.

So, months later, when he awoke in a hospital, stitches in his head and tubes in his arm, with no recollection of his Pontiac Grand Am flipping end to end on the highway that led back to his California base, he expected the same level of attention. I'm a Marine, he remembers thinking. I'm going to get taken care of.

But when doctors declared he would need rehabilitation, Shotwell received a surprising response from base officials: Go get it at a veterans' hospital.

His days as a Marine, it turned out, were numbered, owing to memory problems and other brain damage from the accident that had left him unfit for duty. But Veterans Affairs couldn't take him until he was officially out of the Marines. And that discharge wouldn't become official until more than nine months after his car wreck — a period doctors say is most crucial for the 1947 recovery of patients with brain trauma.

Exactly what happened in Shotwell's case is in dispute. Navy medical officials say their tests indicated the Marine did not need further rehabilitation, though reports



COURTESY OF THE SHOTWELL FAMILY/The Washington Post

Marine Lance Cpl. Chris Shotwell, center, was part of the first Marine units to enter Iraq in 2003. He emerged unscathed, only to suffer a serious car accident after returning to the United States. His rehabilitation after a head injury was interrupted when he was declared unfit for duty.

from both the civilian therapists and a military neuropsychologist recommended it.

Federal officials and veterans' advocates say that the case may represent a bureaucratic glitch but one that is nonetheless worrisome in a system that will soon have to help move thousands of badly wounded veterans into civilian life.

"There's no excuse to let anyone fall through the cracks," said Steve Robinson, executive director of the National Gulf War Resource Center, an advocacy group. "There are protocols for taking care of people when they are injured. Whether it's sys-

temic or an individual (error), the effect on this Marine is devastating and there's no excuse for it."

The transition from military to civilian life is receiving renewed attention from lawmakers and the Pentagon now that more than 10,000 troops have been wounded or injured in Iraq and Afghanistan, many of them badly enough to end their careers in uniform.

A recent report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office found that some wounded veterans may be missing out on vocational rehabilitation and job training

programs offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The report called for closer working relationships between the major military hospitals where wounded troops receive their first stateside care and the VA centers that treat them after discharge.

The report, though, pointed to a roadblock to closer collaboration between the agencies: If the VA reaches out to injured servicemembers whose discharge decisions are still up in the air, those efforts could clash with the Pentagon's attempts to boost retention.

Congressional aides and others said they have heard stories about servicemembers seeing some disruption in their health care as they move from the Pentagon's roster to the VA's. Still, they said Shotwell's case stands apart.

"No servicemember should have to wait for care," said Peter Gaytan, director of the veterans affairs and rehabilitation division of the American Legion.

Now that he has entered the VA system, Shotwell said he has been referred to vocational and physical rehab; he is still awaiting an appointment to determine whether he needs more rehabilitation for his memory problems.

Meanwhile, he remains concerned about his career options after leaving the Marines. His lingering cognitive difficulties could make office work or school impossible, while his coordination problems could rule out manual labor.

"The Marine Corps may have given up on me, but I haven't given up on the Marine Corps."

Navy honors lifesaving operation from WWII

By TONY PERRY

Los Angeles Times

More than six decades after the fact, the Navy on Sunday was to honor a World War II sailor for one of the most famous lifesaving acts of the war.

Retired Vice Adm. Michael L. Cowan will present a Navy Commendation medal to retired Lt. Cmdr. Wheeler B. Lipes, who in 1942 performed an emergency appendectomy while serving aboard a submarine in the South China Sea.

Lipes was a hospital corpsman aboard the Seadranger when a fellow sailor suffered a severe appendicitis attack. Without a doctor on board and unable to surface for fear of drawing enemy fire, the sub's commander gave Lipes permission to perform the operation with improvised equipment and no antibiotics.

The incident led to a Pulitzer Prize-winning story by Chicago Daily News reporter George Waller, who interviewed Lipes and other crewmembers after the sub returned to port in Australia.

The story, published in papers across the country, caused a sensation among Americans eager for uplifting news in the early stages of the war. Lipes gave speeches as part of the drive to sell U.S. war bonds and increase industrial productivity.

Hollywood used the appendicitis incident in the submarine movies "Destination Tokyo" and "Run Silent, Run Deep." It was also the subject of a television documentary in the 1950s.



NEW BERN SUN JOURNAL/AP

Wheeler Lipes, shown in December 2002, is being honored Sunday by the Navy for performing an emergency appendectomy aboard a submarine during World War II, saving a young sailor's life.

But the Navy never formally recognized Lipes, now 85, for saving the life of shipmate Darrell Dean Rector.

In fact, doctors who ran the Navy's medical service during World War II were annoyed that Lipes had practiced medicine without a license.

In a 1999 interview with the Naval Historical Center, Lipes recounted that an official at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery told him soon after the operation "how much trouble I had caused

him."

"There were many doctors back there (at the Navy Department in Washington, D.C.) who were very upset about what I had done," Lipes said. "I guess they were afraid that because I had performed an appendectomy, everyone in the fleet would be running around looking for the first opportunity to do one."

Two years ago Cowan — who until recently was the Navy's surgeon general — heard of the Lipes incident and decided to correct the Navy's oversight. Lipes' resourcefulness, Cowan told a gathering of Navy doctors and corpsmen in San Diego, exemplifies the kind of "can-do" spirit needed to provide emergency care for frontline personnel during the war in Iraq.

The chief of naval operations approved a medal for Lipes. But before it could be awarded, the former sailor was diagnosed with cancer.

So on Sunday, Cowan was scheduled to make the presentation to Lipes at the Naval Hospital at Camp Lejeune, near Lipes' home in New Bern, N.C.

and skillful and heroic surgical intervention under highly unfavorable conditions."

Known as "Johnny" to his shipmates, Lipes, then 23, had observed appendectomies while working at a naval hospital. But the submarine had none of the required surgical instruments, and

keeping the boat stable during the operation was a daunting task.

An inverted strainer was used as an anesthesia mask, with a sail or applying small drops of ether until Rector was unconscious.

Spoons from the galley were modified to serve as retractors. For surgical gowns, Lipes and two assistants wore pajamas made of either boiled in water for sterilization. Fumes from the ether permeated the tight quarters of the submarine, making sailors light-headed.

After removing the appendix, Lipes cauterized the stump with phenol — used on submarines as an industrial cleaning solvent — that was diluted with alcohol normally used to fuel torpedo motors.

Rector, 19, was able to return to duty within days.

Lipes retired from the Navy in 1962 and went on to become a hos-

"It was my job to do anything I could to preserve life and, really, I didn't deserve special credit or recognition for doing that."

Retired Lt. Cmdr. Wheeler B. Lipes

Recruit's death probe

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Four more Marines have been suspended while authorities investigate the death of a recruit who died during a training exercise, military officials said Saturday.

The four Marines saw a drill instructor grab recruit Jason Tharp by the shirt and hit him in the chest, according to a video shot by Columbia television station WIS a day before Tharp died. The drill instructor was suspended earlier.

Tharp, of Sutton, W.Va., drowned Feb. 8 in a swimming pool while participating in a water-survival training course at Parris Island.

Military officials have acknowledged the drill instructor's actions violated regulations.

Capt. Jamie Nott, at Parris Island spokesman, would not give the name or rank of any of the suspended Marines.

From The Associated Press

pital executive. Rector did not survive the war; he was aboard the submarine Tang when it was sunk in 1944 during an attack on the Japanese submarine.

Although it is not unusual for veterans to petition for commendations and other recognition they feel they deserve, Lipes did not do that.

"What was important was that I did my job and saved the guy's life," Lipes said in the 1999 interview. "It's every job to do everything I could to preserve life and, really, I didn't deserve special credit or recognition for doing that."

Latest U.S.-Iraqi effort targets insurgents

Operation focuses on troubled cities west of Baghdad

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — After two days of suicide bombings nationwide that killed nearly 100 people, U.S. Marines and Iraqi security forces launched a joint operation Sunday to crack down on insurgents in troubled cities west of Baghdad, as the military announced the death of another soldier.

The joint U.S.-Iraqi operation was under way in several Euphrates River cities in Anbar province, including Hit, Baghdad, Hadithah and the provincial capital, Ramadi, where authorities imposed a curfew from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m., the military said in a statement.

"The security measures in and around the provincial capital are designed to ensure the safety of the populace by controlling access into the city," the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force said in a statement.

"Access control points leading into the city will screen vehicles for terrorists and insurgents as well as weapons, munitions and materials to produce improved explosive devices," or homemade bombs, the statement said.

Ramadi, about 70 miles west of Baghdad, has long been a center of insurgent activity.

In Baghdad, Shiites stung by a string of bombings attended services in fortified funeral tents in hopes of avoiding a third straight day of attacks.

On Saturday, eight suicide bombers struck in a wave of attacks that killed 55 people as Iraqi Shiites commemorated Ashura, the holiday marking the death of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the prophet Muhammad, in a seventh-century battle for leadership of the Islamic world. Similar attacks Friday killed 36 people and injured dozens.



An Iraqi soldier stands guard Sunday over 92 Iranian and Afghan people arrested for trying to enter the country illegally without documents in the southern town of Basra in the lead-up to Saturday's Shiite holy day of Ashura.

Shiite politicians, poised to take power for the first time in Iraq's modern history, have vowed not to allow the bloodshed to begin a civil war.

On Sunday, a roadside bomb in Baghdad targeting a convoy of Iraqi troops killed two Iraqi National Guardsmen, police 1st Lt. Ali Hussein al-Hamadani said. That same day, Iraq's major Sunni Arab tribes and political parties met in Baghdad to discuss their roles in the new government elected Jan. 30 and the drafting of Iraq's new constitution.

Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawer, a Sunni Muslim and head of the Iraqi Party list of candidates that won five parliamentary seats in the election, was to attend the meeting with the Sunni parties and tribes.

The government said two alleged terrorists were killed in a Feb. 11 raid in Baghdad. It

identified the two as Abu al-Izz and Adel Mujtaba, known as Abu Rim, who the government said "disseminated propaganda" for the al-Qaida leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, and created "terrorist Web sites."

Al-Jazeera television aired a videotape Sunday purporting to show al-Qaida No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahiri denouncing U.S. calls for reform in the region and urging the West to respect the Islamic world.

Al-Zawahiri, who appeared sitting on the ground and in front of a brown background, said the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, "explains the truth about reforms and democracy that America is allegedly trying to impose on our countries."

"Real security is based on mutual cooperation with the Islamic nation on the basis of mutual respect and the stopping of aggression," he

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Sunday, at least 1,478 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,116 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is 15 higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths: Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ One Marine killed Sunday in action in Anbar province.

■ One U.S. soldier was killed Saturday in a suicide bombing.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

- Army Sgt. Timothy R. Osbey, 44, and Army Spc. Joseph A. Rahaim, 22, both of Magnolia, Miss., died Wednesday in Iskandariyah, Iraq, after their vehicle was hit when a road collapsed; assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, McComb, Miss.

Senators upbeat on Iraq despite security threats

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — As 55 people died from terrorist attacks in Iraq on Saturday, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., said that much of

Iraq was "functioning quite well" and that the rash of suicide attacks was a sign that the insurgency was failing.

Clinton said insurgents intent on destabilizing the country had

failed to disrupt Iraq's landmark Jan. 30 elections.

"The concerted effort to disrupt the elections was an abject failure. No one polling place was shut down or overrun," Clinton

said inside the U.S.-protected Green Zone, a sprawling complex of sandbagged buildings surrounded by blast walls and tanks.

The zone is home to the Iraqi government and U.S. Embassy.

The five-member U.S. congressional delegation arrived in Baghdad as a series of suicide bombings and explosions killed 55 people, including an American soldier.

Much of the violence was aimed at Shiite Muslims, commemorating Ashura, the festival marking the seventh century death of a leader of their sect.

"The fact that you have these suicide bombers now, wreaking such hatred and violence while people pray, is to me, an indication of their failure," Clinton said.

The senate delegation included Republicans John McCain of Arizona, Sen. Collins of Maine, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Wisconsin Democrat Russ Feingold.

All but Feingold are members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, which oversees the defense department budget.

Collins, who last visited Iraq in mid-2003, said the increased violence was "disappointing."

Eighteen months ago, "we were able to move more freely in Baghdad," she said. "And one impression I have is how much more fortified Baghdad is than it was during that summer."

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Pastor Warren Webster

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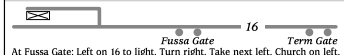
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IN THE WORLD

China ups diplomatic efforts with N. Korea

BY STEPHANIE HOO

The Associated Press

BEIJING — A top Chinese Communist Party official was in the North Korean capital Sunday seeking a change of heart after Pyongyang reportedly rejected any further negotiations over its nuclear weapons program.

The head of the party's international department, Wang Jiarui, "exchanged views ... on international and regional issues" with North Korea's No. 2 leader Kim Yong Nam, Chinese state media reported without elaborating.

China is trying to draw North Korea back to six-nation talks on its nuclear program — a task that has taken on greater urgency since Pyongyang's explosive but unconfirmed declaration earlier this month that it has become a nuclear power.

Wang, who arrived in Pyongyang on Saturday for a four-day visit, also planned to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, according to South Korea's Munhwa Ilbo newspaper.

China's Foreign Ministry said Sunday it had no immediate comment on Wang's trip.

Chinese state television sought to put a positive spin on the talks, citing comments by the North's U.N. envoy, Han Sung Ryol, to a South Korean newspaper on Thursday that his country would return to talks under certain "preconditions," namely that the United States drop its "hostile policy" toward Pyongyang.

But China's state news agency, Xinhua, reported Saturday that the North had reiterated its decision on Feb. 10 to indefinitely suspend its participation in six-party talks with the United States, South Korea, China, Japan and Russia.

During three rounds of talks in Beijing



South Korean protesters hold anti-North Korean banners and South Korean flags Sunday during a rally in front of the National Assembly in Seoul. A top Chinese Communist Party official was in the North Korean capital Sunday seeking a change of heart after Pyongyang reportedly rejected any further negotiations over its nuclear weapons program.

since late 2002, North Korea has demanded more aid and a peace treaty with Washington in exchange for abandoning nuclear development.

North Korea had also sought one-on-one talks with Washington but withdrew that offer on Saturday, citing what it called the United States' "persistent attempts to topple the communist regime," Xinhua said.

North Korea "has no justification to take bilateral talks ... on the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula with the United States now," Xinhua quoted an unnamed spokesman as saying.

In Washington, Secretary of State Con-

do leezza Rice and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld as well as their Japanese counterparts urged North Korea to resume the six-party talks.

"We share a concern about events on the Korean Peninsula," Rice said following meetings with Japanese officials. "The ministers and I urge North Korea to return to the six-party talks as the best way to end nuclear programs and the only way for North Korea to achieve better relations."

Beijing is key source of food and energy aid to the impoverished North but fears that cutting off supplies might risk instability and send a flood of refugees across the border into China.

N. Korea lashes out at Japan's defense plans

The Associated Press

SEOUL — North Korea on Sunday criticized Japan's new defense guidelines, saying that Tokyo has joined "U.S. vicious hostile policy" toward its communist state.

The statement came after top U.S. and Japanese officials expressed deep concern about North Korea's nuclear programs, and pressed Pyongyang to soon resume international talks aimed at halting its weapons development.

Earlier this month, North Korea announced it has nuclear weapons and would boycott U.S.-sponsored disarmament talks.

Japan's new defense plan, adopted in December, eased its ban on exporting weapons, allowing the country to pursue a missile defense program with Washington. The plan also singled out the threats posed by North Korean missiles, China's military buildup and terrorism.

Japan has "joined in the U.S. vicious hostile policy toward the DPRK and its moves to stifle it and, therefore, the situation of the Korean Peninsula has reached the worst phase," said the North's Rodong Simnun newspaper.

The new Japanese policy's "first target is the DPRK. This is proved by the new defense program outlines" allegedly to cope with threat from the DPRK and China," it said.

Japan pledged it would avoid offensive military activity abroad.

Pakistan's Shiites mark holiest day

The Associated Press

QUETTA, Pakistan — In an age-old ritual to mark Ashura, the holiest day in the Shiite Muslim calendar, about 20,000 worshippers marched through this southwestern Pakistani city on Sunday despite fears of a suicide attack.

Police said they arrested 36 Sunni Muslim extremists in the three days leading up to the procession through Quetta, to prevent a repeat of last year's violence.

About 5,000 policemen and 2,000 troops were deployed Sunday, and road blocks were thrown up to limit access into Quetta.

On Ashura — the 10th day in the Islamic month of Muharram — Shiites mourn the seventh century death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson Imam Hussein, an event that led to the split in Islam between the Shiite and Sunni sects.

Most of Pakistan's Sunnis and Shiites live peacefully together, but small radical groups on both sides have a violent agenda.

Israeli Cabinet gives OK for Gaza pullout

BY RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel's Cabinet gave final approval Sunday to the government's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements, marking the first time an Israeli government decided to dismantle Jewish settlements on land claimed by the Palestinians for a future state.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon also signed an order making it illegal for Israelis to be in the Gaza Strip and northern West Bank after July 20, a government official said.

The Cabinet also approved the final route of Israel's separation barrier in the West Bank, initially constructed to keep out Palestinian attackers but increasingly seen as a blueprint

for a final border between Israel and a future Palestinian state.

Expected to run about 425 miles, the barrier is about one-third complete.

With Sunday's twin votes, Sharon's government began charting Israel's final borders unilaterally, something none of his predecessors have attempted since Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war.

Sharon, a former patron of settlers, told Cabinet ministers that "it's not an easy day, it's not a happy day," but the withdrawal was vital for Israel's security.

Ministers voted 17-5 for the plan, sealing the political defeat of withdrawal opponents seeking to put the plan to a national referendum. The evacuation of about 9,000 settlers will begin in July and take two months.

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Japan seeks to speed up base talks

Sides to examine U.S. troops' presence, role

By HARRY DUNPHY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura said Saturday that Japan and the United States will accelerate discussions aimed at reducing burdens the U.S. military presence in Japan poses for its people, particularly on Okinawa.

About 58,000 U.S. military personnel are stationed in Japan, two thirds of them on Okinawa, about 1,000 miles southwest of Tokyo.

Residents of Okinawa have long complained about noise from military aircraft and crimes committed by U.S. troops.

Machimura said the United States and Japan see eye-to-eye on the importance of maintaining U.S. forces in Japan as a deterrent against any possible security threat and an anchor to stability in the region.

"But we also take into consideration the prospect of reducing burdens on local commu-

nities, including Okinawa," he said. "We have not looked simply in terms of burdens but also emphasize the positive aspect this stationing of these forces have."

He spoke at a State Department news conference after meetings with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld that also included Japanese Defense Chief Yoshinori Ono.

Ono said more was at stake than the amount of space the United States takes up in Okinawa.

"By improving interoperability (of military forces) and other joint efforts, I believe we will be able to find clues to the resolution of the issues," he said.

Machimura said there was broad agreement between Japan and the United States on strategic objectives in Asia and the two sides were now examining roles, missions and capabilities of U.S. forces and the Self Defense Force as well as individual facilities and areas in Japan.



Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Nobutaka Machimura, left, shakes hands Saturday with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice before the start of their meeting in Washington.

Bangladesh ferry sinks killing at least 81

By FARID HOSSAIN
The Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh — A double-decker passenger ferry capsized and sank during an over-sized tropical storm in Bangladesh, leaving at least 81 people dead and more than 100 missing, rescue officials said Sunday.

The MV Maharaj was carrying about 200 people when it capsized Saturday night on the Bangladesh River just outside the capital, Dhaka.

Divers found 44 bodies inside the sunken ferry, while 37 others were picked up from the river, said Nurul Islam, a fire brigade official supervising the rescue work.

"The accident happened in darkness and it's still unclear how many people died or survived," said Mahbubur Rahman, a local government official.

Some passengers were rescued by villagers and fishing boats.

"We fear many of the missing people are trapped inside the ferry and presumed dead," said Syed Monwar Hossain, an official at state-run Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority that oversees the operation of river ferries.

A salvage ship was trying to recover the ferry with cranes and ropes from about 20 feet of water, Hossain said.

Another rescue vessel was en route to the site of accident.

The vessel was about 30 minutes into its journey from Dhaka to the eastern town of Chandpur when gusty winds struck just before midnight Saturday. Many of the passengers were going home to see their family ahead of two days of public holiday when it capsized and sank near the town of Paga.

Jasim Uddin, an auto-rickshaw driver, was rescued by a fishing boat, but his daughter and a nephew died. His wife, a son and four other relatives traveling with him were missing.

"I've lost every one in my family. What sin have I committed? Oh Allah, tell me how shall I live without them," sobbed Uddin, 35, sitting in front of the bodies of his daughter and nephew.

Kohinoor Begum, a garment worker who was picked up by a trawler, said, "It was dark and high winds came from the south. The ferry careened to one side and I jumped into the waters."

Her brother and a nephew traveling with her died, she said.

Thousands of people gathered on the riverbanks to look for their loved ones.

"I'm looking for my brother, his wife and their 1-year-old son," Dhaka businessman Mujibur Rahman said.

Rescuers suspended working Sunday night as darkness fell, but said they would resume Monday.

President Iajuddin Ahmed urged authorities to speed up rescue work, his office said. An investigation into the accident was ordered.

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IN THE STATES

The closure of the Long Beach (Calif.) Naval Shipyard in 1995 came on top of nearly 17,000 jobs lost in 1991 after Long Beach-based ships were assigned to other ports. Ten years later, in its first base-closing effort since then, the Pentagon plans to shut down or scale back 425 more facilities as part of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's plans for long-term transformation.

AP



DOD preps for first base cuts in a decade

BRAC commission to be selected next month; Rumsfeld's recommendations due by May

By LIZ SIDOTI

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Safe for a decade, military bases in the United States face an uncertain future.

The Pentagon plans to shut down or scale back some of the 425 facilities, the first such effort to save money in 10 years. The downsizing is part of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's long-term transformation of the Cold War-era military.

The Pentagon chief argues that closing or consolidating stateside facilities could save \$7 billion annually and that the money would be better spent improving fighting capabilities amid threats from terrorists.

"The department continues to close or consolidating stateside facilities could save \$7 billion annually and that the money would be better spent improving fighting capabilities amid threats from terrorists."

Shrinking the domestic network of Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps bases is a certain source of savings. It also is a high-stakes political fight because it affects

local economies in congressional districts. Lawmakers have resisted efforts to shutter their bases, challenging past base closing rounds and lobbying hard to keep their installation off the final list.

"It's the perfect example of good policy and good politics not fitting in the same room together," said Christopher Hellman, an analyst with the Center for Arms Control and Nonproliferation in Washington.

"Conceptually, lawmakers buy the argument that base closures are important to make sure they are spending resources wisely. But they are reticent of closing bases in their cities because of job losses," Hellman said.

Rumsfeld has estimated that extra base capacity is at nearly 25 percent. But Republican lawmakers said the secretary recently

told them that the cuts will not be as deep, in part because the military needs a home for 70,000 troops returning from Europe.

The Pentagon says that all domestic bases are under consideration, but clearly some are more vulnerable than others.

The Northeast is home to many bases configured to defend against the Soviet threat. They could absorb the biggest hit now that many former Soviet bloc nations are U.S. allies.

Congress authorized the fifth round of Base Realignment and Closure — commonly known as BRAC — last year. The first deadline in the yearlong process is March 15, when President Bush must name a nine-member commission that will review a list of closures that Rumsfeld will propose by May.

Congressional leaders have submitted their six recommendations.

Bush will make his three choices known shortly.

As the process gets under way, lawmakers and communities are stepping up efforts to show their bases are essential. They also are lobbying for new missions and projects for their facilities to make the bases less attractive for closure.

Congress authorized the closures last year, rejecting a delay until 2007. Still, some Republicans and Democrats continue to fight.

"I will try to stop it at any point and in any way I possibly can," said Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss. Closing bases while the country is at war is "the worst possible timing," Lott says.

Republican Sen. John Warner of Virginia, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said it was essential for the military to eliminate "those bases, structures, buildings, compounds that aren't on the very edge of what we need to defend ourselves."



Rumsfeld



Warner

Secret tapes reveal candidate Bush's concerns, strategies

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Private conversations with George Bush secretly taped by an old friend before he was elected president foreshadow some of his political strategies and appear to reveal that he acknowledged using marijuana, The New York Times reported

Saturday.

The conversations were recorded by Doug Wead, a former aide to George W. Bush's father, beginning in 1998, when Bush was weighing a presidential bid, until just before the Republican National Convention in 2000, the Times said on its Web site.

The tapes show Bush crafting a

strategy for navigating the tricky political waters between Christian conservative and secular voters.

On one tape, Bush explains that he told one prominent evangelical that he would not "kick gays, because I'm a sinner. How can I differentiate sin?"

In early tapes, Bush dismisses

the strength of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., for the nomination and expresses concern about rival Steve Forbes.

Bush also criticizes then-Vice President Al Gore for admitting marijuana use and explains why he would not do the same.

"I wouldn't answer the marijuana questions," he said, according

to the Times. "You know why? Because I don't want some little kid doing what I tried."

The White House did not deny the authenticity of the tapes.

"[Bush] was having casual conversations with someone he believed was his friend," White House spokesman Trent Duffy said.

NAACP pans Bush Social Security plan

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Denouncing President Bush's plan for Social Security reform as one that would disproportionately hurt blacks, NAACP leaders asked to meet with the president to discuss the issue, the NAACP chairman announced Saturday.

Julian Bond, speaking at a news conference during the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's annual meeting here, also said he expects to name the Baltimore-based organization's new pres-

ident by July.

Last week, NAACP leaders asked to meet with the president, submitting a letter to the White House that detailed their concerns over education and unemployment, but focused largely on Bush's plan to privatize Social Security.

Hilary O. Shelton, the NAACP's Washington bureau chief, said that among married couples, twice as many blacks as whites rely on Social Security for their entire retirement income, and blacks in their 50s are twice as likely to become disabled as whites.

Boy guilty of double slaying Officer killed in friendly fire

MARIETTA, Ohio — A 12-year-old boy was convicted Saturday in the shotgun slayings of his aunt and grandmother. He's expected to be imprisoned until age 21.

Bryan Christopher Sturm told investigators he shot his grandmother at her southeast Ohio home on Nov. 22 because she constantly criticized him, according to an affidavit filed by the Washington County sheriff's office. He said his aunt was accidentally shot in the head when she grabbed the gun.

CHICAGO — An off-duty correctional officer shot and killed a friend and co-worker Saturday whom he mistakenly believed was trying to carjack a vehicle being driven by his wife, police said.

Arin McClendon, 36, was killed while trying to pull a joke on a longtime friend in an area where two dozen carjackings have occurred in less than a year, authorities said.

From The Associated Press

Suspect's release angers Denver residents

Man allegedly sexually abused five after admitting to earlier attack



THE DENVER POST/AP

Denver Police Chief Gerry Whitman, left, talks to about 250 people at Saturday's rally outside a pet-supply store in Denver where a woman working alone was raped Feb. 11. The suspect in the assault, Brent J. Brents, is a convicted rapist who is suspected in a series of violent sexual assaults committed after he allegedly confessed to an earlier attack but was released.

BY CATHERINE TSAI
The Associated Press

DENVER — As a serial rape suspect returned to Denver in handcuffs, about 250 people gathered outside a store owned by one of the victims and expressed anger that the man had been allowed to go free after allegedly confessing to another crime.

Brent J. Brents is a suspect in five sexual assaults on women and girls earlier this month in Denver — crimes committed after police said he confessed to an earlier attack but was released.

He was arrested late Friday in western Colorado while driving a car believed to have been taken from a woman whom he allegedly brutally beat. He was returned to Denver Saturday and held in lieu of \$25 million bail.

At the rally Saturday outside a pet shop, residents shouted and shook noisemakers when a friend of the victim asked how many were angry and baffled that Brents had been freed after previous allegations against him.

"Acts of violence against women and children cannot be tolerated," the owner's fiancé told the crowd.

Brents, 35, was accused late last year of inappropriately touching a former girlfriend's 8-year-old son but never arrested, despite allegedly telling officers the boy was telling the truth.

Aurora Police Chief Ricky Bennett has said Brents was allowed to leave because additional investigation was needed.

Brents had been released from prison months earlier after being sent to a state hospital for about three years and then to prison for 14 years for raping a young boy and a girl.

He was linked by DNA evidence to the string of rapes in Denver, police said, and is also a suspect in an October sexual assault.

He was arrested Friday after allegedly beating a woman and stealing her car and cell phone. The victim of Friday's attack was in serious but stable condition at a Denver hospital, police said.

Police tracked calls made from the stolen phone and arrested Brents about 150 miles west of Denver. He was with a woman whom police described as a victim, but they did not immediately disclose whether she had been kidnapped.

The string of rapes in Denver began Feb. 11 with the rape of the 44-year-old pet shop owner and another woman blocks away. Brents is also a suspect in the sexual assaults on two 11-year-old sisters and their 67-year-old grandmother, according to an arrest warrant.

Police encouraged other possible victims to come forward.

"We have significant reason to believe that there are many, many additional victims," said Dave Fisher, the police department's chief of investigation.

Associated Press writers Erin Garner and Don Mitchell contributed to this story.

People challenge city on condemnation rights

BY MATT APPEZZO
The Associated Press

NEW LONDON, Conn. — Fifteen houses are all that remain of Fort Trumbull, a once vibrant immigrant neighborhood flattened into expanses of rutted grass and gravel.

The homes stand in defiance of New London's plan to pave the way for a riverfront hotel and convention center, offices and upscale condominiums.

Refusing the city's efforts to get them to leave, seven families are going before the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday, arguing that the city has no right to take their private property solely for economic development. The rebellious homeowners include an elderly Italian immigrant, a mechanic and a former deli owner.

"It's a case of the rich eating the poor," said Matthew Dery, who lives in one of four houses on a compound his family has owned since 1901. "Sometimes the poor are difficult to digest."

Leading the charge is Susette Kelo, a 47-year-old nurse who bought her home in 1997.

"They have over 90 acres now," Kelo said. "It's more than enough room to build on. We never said they can't build. We just said 'We want to stay.'"

But Kelo's apricot-colored house, with a decorative outhouse in the front yard and wind chimes made of silverware, doesn't fit in the city's development plans.

"They just would not be compatible with all the other uses," said Edward O'Connell, an attorney representing the New London Development Corp., the quasi-public agency behind the redevelopment effort.

Whether building high-rises or public offices, laying railroad tracks or eliminating blight, government has long relied on eminent domain laws to allow them to take private property.

The Fifth Amendment allows governments to take private property for "public use."

The Supreme Court has given governments broad power to take private property through eminent domain, provided the owner is given "just compensation."



Susette Kelo, who lives in this house in the Fort Trumbull section of New London, Conn., is one of several property owners in the area refusing to sell or leave their properties to make way for additional development.



Large sheets of plastic are used to help prevent erosion around hillside homes as the forecast of rain continued over the weekend in the Studio City section of Los Angeles.

Calif. braces for more storms

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Light showers kept Southern California wet on Sunday as residents braced for yet another blast of the stormy weather that has caused flash flooding and knocked out power to thousands of homes and businesses.

As much as 3 inches of rain was forecast along the coast Sunday night, with up to 10 inches possible in the foothills, and elevations above 7,000 feet could see up to 3 feet of snow, the National Weather Service said. Lesser amounts were likely in Northern California.

Downtown Los Angeles has already gotten 28.55 inches of precipitation since July 1, the sev-

enth wettest water year on record, weather service forecasters said. The record is 38.18 inches from July 1883 to the following June.

The latest series of storms arrived Friday, causing two days of scattered flooding, mudslides that blocked Amtrak service, and generating two small tornadoes that briefly touched down in San Diego County and Riverside County. The twisters broke windows, knocked over trees and downed power lines, but no major injuries were reported.

"Crews working through the night," restoring service to many of the homes and businesses, Southern California Edison spokesman Gil Alexander said Sunday.

Polls: Washington lags

WASHINGTON — When Americans name their greatest president, they do not agree on who tops the list, but seem to rank a half-dozen chief executives ahead of the nation's first.

George Washington tied for sixth place in one recent poll and ranked seventh in another.

"Let's face it, 'First in war, first in peace, and second in the hearts of his countrymen,' doesn't sound very impressive," said Ted Widmer, a professor of history at Washington College in Chestertown, Md.

Shortly after Washington's death in 1799, Congress adopted the description Henry Lee used in his eulogy of his fellow Virginian: "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

But in a poll commissioned by Washington College for President's Day, Americans rated Abraham Lincoln as the greatest president. A CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll put Ronald Reagan on top.

Asked who was the greatest president, 20 percent of those polled chose Lincoln. Reagan was picked by 15 percent, Franklin D. Roosevelt by 12 percent, John F. Kennedy by 11 percent, Bill Clinton by 10 percent and George W. Bush by 8 percent. Washington was picked by 6 percent.

In the CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll, Reagan had 20 percent, followed by Clinton and Lincoln in the mid-tens and then Roosevelt and Kennedy at 12 percent.

The poll done for the college looked at how much the public knows about Washington and found that 46 percent knew that Washington led the Continental Army during the American Revolution.

From The Associated Press

U.S. companies shift overseas profits home

By MARY DALRYMPLE

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Led by drug makers, American companies have started announcing their

plans to use a temporary tax break and shift back to the United States billions of dollars in profits that have been stashed abroad.

An incentive to invest in the U.S. economy — that's how lawmakers promoted the short-term relief that lets companies avoid as much as 85 percent of the taxes they might otherwise pay on earnings abroad.

Critics say there is no assurance that new jobs will result.

"There are some alleged restrictions that are easy to get around," said Robert McIntyre, director of Citizens for Tax Justice.

Johnson & Johnson, which makes a broad range of health

care products, plans to return \$11 billion to the United States. Dell, the computer manufacturer, has \$4 billion to repatriate. Kellogg, known for its cereal and snacks, wants to return \$1 billion. The announcements stem from a law passed in October that allows companies, for one year, to pay a reduced 5.25 percent tax on overseas earnings returned to the United States. The profits otherwise face tax rates as high as 35 percent.

Private estimates suggest that companies could bring more than \$300 billion back to the United States. Few companies have said how they will use the money once it starts to stream back into domestic operations.

Allen Sinai, president and chief economist at Decision Economics, estimated that companies might be on track to announce a combined \$100 billion first quarter of the year.

He estimated the influx of cash could generate 400,000 to 600,000 jobs in the United States over the next few years and boost economic growth this year.

"We're on the way to quite a bit of money coming back from overseas," Sinai said.

Lil Mills, a tax professor at the University of Arizona, said the bricks-and-mortar effect of the incentive will not be observed for some time.

"Does it really create new U.S.

manufacturing jobs is a long-term economic study," she said.

The majority of lawmakers believed strongly enough in the idea that they rejected efforts by a few colleagues to put tighter reins on businesses and restrict them to using the money for wages, employee pensions, capital improvements and research.

Lawmakers wrote a "purposely nebulous" law that would give businesses lots of flexibility to invest in the U.S. economy, said Greg Kelly, a Washington analyst at Susquehanna Financial Group.

"At the end of the day, what was most important for Congress was this money would come back domestically," Kelly said.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Feb. 22)	103.00
South Korean won (Feb. 19)	999.00
U.S. dollar (Feb. 21)	\$1.361
Dollar buys (Feb. 21)	\$0.742
British pound (Feb. 21)	\$1.594
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	\$3.770
British pound	\$1.897
Canada (Dollar)	\$1.216
Denmark (Krone)	\$6.603
Egypt (Pound)	\$8.116
Euro	\$1.3067
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$7.996
Hungary (Forint)	\$16.51
Israel (Shekel)	\$1.735
Japan (Yen)	\$0.944
Kuwait (Dinar)	\$3.219
Norway (Krone)	\$4.498
Philippines (Peso)	\$54.49
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$7.500
Singapore (Dollar)	\$1.687
South Korea (Won)	\$9.076
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1.629
Thailand (Baht)	\$38.54
Turkey (New Lira)	\$1.405

Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (U.S. dollars), check with your local military banking facility. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars to pound, and the euro, which is dollars to euro.

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc close	
Gold	\$407.10
Silver	\$7.413

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.50
Federal funds market rate	2.50
3-month bill	2.60
30-year bond	4.65

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Budget travel tips

The Associated Press

Whether you're traveling for business or pleasure, you probably could use a few tips to make it easier. The Feb. 15 issue of TravelSmart offers these:

■ When traveling abroad, take your own toothpaste. While most Americans have had fluoride in their municipal water for decades, many other countries don't add it to the water. This has prompted many foreign brands to put more in the toothpaste than a few of the common U.S. brands. While not a health problem, excessive amounts of fluoride for children can cause permanent brown spots on the skin.

■ Gasoline usually costs less early in the week. Petrol peddlers are no dummies: We drive more on the weekends, so pump prices are boosted on Fridays.

■ Reserve a compact or economy car, when possible. Rental fleets stock more larger cars than smaller, because of demand patterns, so you're likely to get a free upgrade if all the smaller cars are gone.

■ At hotels, the third through sixth floors are safest. Thieves tend to target ground and 2nd floor rooms, especially those with a balcony, patio, terrace or direct pool access. Also, if there's a fire, you'll have a longer walk down if staying on a high floor.

Rice asks Japan about lifting ban on U.S. beef

By HARRY DUNPHY

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice raised the issue of Japan lifting completely a ban on imports of U.S. beef while meeting with her Japanese counterpart.

Rice met with Nobutaka Machimura for bilateral talks Saturday.

The Japanese understood U.S. concerns and were trying to accelerate procedures "and make a commitment the issue would be resolved," said a State Department official who attended the meeting and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Hatsumasa Takashima, the Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman, said beef imports came up in the talks and that Japan would make an effort to meet U.S. requests.



Rice

known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE, in a Washington state Holstein.

Earlier this month a Japanese government panel took a step toward partially lifting the ban, but the decision still has to be approved by the government.

Before the ban, Japan was the most lucrative overseas market for U.S. beef producers, buying \$1.7 billion in 2003.

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Broadway musicals tapping into girl power

Productions woo younger women

By MICHAEL KUCHWARA
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Is girl power Broadway's not-so-secret weapon? Tapping into the female adolescent audience has been a boon for such shows as "Wicked," "Beauty and the Beast," "Mamma Mia!" and even "Hairspray" and "Brooklyn The Musical."

And now Broadway has "Little Women," the latest musical that has a special interest for girls — and their mothers, aunts and grandmothers — particularly those who are fans of the classic Louisa May Alcott novel about the spirited, would-be writer Jo March and her three sisters. It, too, is aggressively seeking those young women to fill seats. It's no secret women buy more theater tickets than men. During the 2003-04 season, 63 percent of the Broadway audience was female, according to figures from the League of American Theaters and Producers. "Little Women," which opened last month to mixed reviews but raves for star Sutton Foster, hopes to capitalize on that female buying power.



Roslini Gittens, center, looks at the program for the play "Little Women" with her daughter, Jasmine Daniel, 13, at her right, while others wait for the show to begin at the Virginia Theatre in New York. The show is among those on Broadway that hold a special attraction for young women.

"Wicked," a tale of two witches in "The Wizard of Oz" before the arrival of Dorothy, is a show that managed to quickly establish itself. The musical found an enthusiastic audience in young women, some of whom even point their selves green in sympathy with

the show's misunderstood heroine, Elphaba, a green witch. "Brooklyn," in fact, subtly underscores a connection to "Wicked." Its star, Eden Espinosa, who once understated the role of Elphaba and developed a following by doing so, figures prominently

in many of the ads for "Brooklyn." The musical's story of a plucky young singer in search of her long-lost father has the fairy-tale appeal of a heroine overcoming impossible odds.

"Mamma Mia!" — a well-established musical with 14 produc-

tions worldwide in seven different languages — features three women in leading roles. It was created by three women — producer Judy Craymer, book writer Catherine Johnson and director Phyllida Lloyd — and features music by the Swedish pop group ABBA, who "write great songs for girls," according to Craymer.

"The show affects a broad spectrum of female audiences," she said. "There's a big emotional arc about its mother-daughter story that women can relate to — but without the exclusion of men. And the men like 'Mamma Mia!' because the women are sexy."

Pre-wedding parties are popular, too, particularly in Las Vegas, where the musical is now in its third year.

"Hairspray" gets celebratory audiences, too, often of young women who have "Sweet 16" birthday parties. They cheer on its heroine, overweight teen Tracy Turnblad, who gets snubbed in high school and initially turned down for a teen TV dance show.

"The fact that someone who is so obviously an outsider and not self-conscious about that and, in the end, triumphs, is of great appeal to young girls," says "Hairspray" producer Margo Lion.

Pa. society unveils collection

By PATRICK WALTERS
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Since being founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1743, the American Philosophical Society has collected just about every kind of trinket, piece of Americana and oddity imaginable.

The problem is, much of it has never been on display. So after trolling through its vast collections, the group has assembled and put on exhibit a broad array of artifacts, historical documents, inventions and other items, many of which have been tucked away for decades.

"It's extremely broad in that way," curator Sue Ann Prince said of "Treasures Revealed: 260 Years of Collecting at the American Philosophical Society," which opened Friday and runs through Dec. 11. "What we did was do a lot of looking through our collections."

The results are so broad they're hard to put into categories.

A New Testament found in human manure — literally an executed convict — is displayed in glass casing not far from the portrait of George Washington that appears on the dollar bill.

Blueprints for ENIAC, an early electronic digital computer developed by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania, hang steps away from a map depicting the Revolutionary War's deciding battle of Yorktown.

An unknown photographer's pictures of atomic clouds arising up after the Bikini Atoll atomic bomb tests share a room with pages of negotiations be-



"Observations upon Negro Slavery," dated 1790 by Charles Crawford, shows how enslaved Africans were transported. It is displayed at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia on Wednesday.

tween American Indians and Pennsylvania colonists from the mid-18th century.

Divided into themed sections, the displays cover natural history, the nation's founding, art, inventions, technology, artifacts and other areas.

There are chicken feathers saved by poultry geneticist Hubert Goodale and John I. Hawklin's patent polygraph, an early 19th-century device with two mechanically linked pens that allowed an author to have a replica of his writings created. The idea never took off.

The society, located in the heart of Philadelphia's historic district, was founded by Franklin "to promote useful knowledge" and served as a national library, patent office, museum and academy before the nation's capital was moved to Washington, D.C.

Today, it remains a source of research in biology, genetics and other revolutionary sciences. Invitation-only members from a variety of fields include Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, architect I. M. Pei and 93 current Nobel laureates.

'Eternal Sunshine', 'Sideways' earn top Writers Guild honors

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," a quirky love story about two people trying to erase their memories of each other, won best original screenplay Saturday at the 57th Annual Writers Guild Awards.

The screenplay was written by Charlie Kaufman from a story by Kaufman, Michel Gondry and Pierre Bismuth. The film starred Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet.

Best adapted screenplay went to "Sideways," the road trip romp through Southern California wine country that charmed critics and audiences alike. The screenplay by Alexander Payne and Jim Taylor was based on Rex Pickett's novel.

"Eternal Sunshine" beat out screenwriter John Logan for the Howard Hughes film biography "The Aviator"; Zach Braff for the romance "Garden State"; Keir Pearson and Terry George for "Hotel Rwanda"; and Bill Condon for "Kinsey."

In other awards: ■ Tony Kushner's "Angels in America" won long-form adapted writing for television for Kushner's HBO teleplay, which was based on his play. The long-form original writing award went to Peter Silverman and Robert Caswell for HBO's "Something the Lord Made."

■ Television: Animation: "The Simpsons" (Fox), Ian Maxtone-Graham, Fox. ■ Episodic Drama: "The Sopranos" (The West Wing), Debora Cahn, NBC.

■ Episodic comedy: Tie — "Pier

Pressure" ("Arrested Development"), Jim Vallely and Mitchell Hurwitz, Fox; and "Ida's Boyfriend" ("Malcolm in the Middle"), Neil Thompson, Fox.

■ Comedy-Variety, music, awards, tributes special: "The Kennedy Center Honors," George Stevens Jr. and Sara Liskinson, CBS.

■ Comedy-Variety (including talk) Series: "Late Night With Conan O'Brien," Mike Sweeney, Chris Albers, Jose Arroyo, Andy Blitz, Kevin Dorff, Dan Goor, Michael O'Connor, Tracy Eley, Michael Korman, Demetri Martin, Brian Korman, Guy Nicolucci, Conan O'Brien, Allison Silverman, Robert Smigel, Brian Stash, Andrew Weinberg, NBC.

■ Daytime Series: "Guiding Light," David Kreizman, Tita Bell, Joyce Brotzman, Christopher Dunn, Lloyd Gold, Kimberly Hamilton, Jill Lorie Hurst, Penelope Koehle, Eleanor Labine, Royal Miller, Lasandra Morgan, Donna Paige, David Smolov, Gillian Spencer, Brett Staneart, Donna Swajski, Ellen Weston, CBS.

■ Children's Script: "A Separate Peace. Teleplay by Wendy Kesselman, based on the novel by John Knowles, Showtime.

■ Documentary, current events: "From China With Love," (Frontline), Michael J. Kirk, PBS.

■ Documentary, other current events: "The Fight" (American Experience), Barak Goodman, PBS.

■ News, regularly scheduled, broadcast or break-through: "The Reagan Funeral" (ABC World News Tonight with Peter Jennings), Steve Alperin, ABC.

FACES

Beckhams welcome new son

LONDON — Soccer star David Beckham's wife, Victoria — formerly known as "Posh Spice," gave birth Sunday to the couple's third son, named Cruz.

Victoria Beckham, 30, and the baby are in "perfect health," said Dr. Vidal Pelaez, head of the obstetrics and gynecology department at the Hospital Ruber Internacional, where she gave birth to the 7-pound boy by planned Caesarean section.

Cruz has two brothers: Brooklyn, 5, and Romeo, 2.

The marriage of Britain's No. 1 celebrity couple grabbed headlines in April when a former personal aide, Rebecca Loos, claimed she and David Beckham had had a 10-day affair. He dismissed the claim as "ludicrous" and "absurd."

In September, lawyers for the couple said they were taking legal action against a British tabloid newspaper over an article which claimed their marriage was in trouble.



Victoria Beckham

Doobie Brothers give back

The Doobie Brothers will donate proceeds from their Doobie Red Wine to the National Veterans Foundation for the next five years in memory of late drummer Keith Knudsen.

Knudsen, who played with the band on a string of hits including "Taking It to the Streets" and "Black Water" and who is credited with pushing the band to re-form in 1987, died of pneumonia Feb. 8. He was 56.

The National Veterans Foundation and founder **Shad Meshad** were very close to Keith, the band and me," manager **Bruce Cohn** said in a statement Thursday.

Since 1987, the band has given more than \$1 million to the foundation. Doobie Red, a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cab Franc from Sonoma County, is produced by Cohn's B.R. Cohn Winery in Glen Ellen. Doobie Red is packaged as a three-bottle collection set featuring Doobie Brothers album and CD artwork.

Artists see 'The Gates' as unique

Artists **Christo** and **Jeanne-Claude** told delegates from around the world who toured "The Gates" in Central Park, N.Y., that they want people to think of their projects as a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"We love these words: Once upon a time there was 'The Gates' in Central Park. Once in a lifetime and never again," Jeanne-Claude said at a reception Thursday for "sister city" delegates at the Boathouse in Central Park.

About 100 delegates from Beijing; Budapest, Hungary; Cairo, Egypt; Jerusalem; Johannesburg, South Africa; London, Madrid, Spain; Rome; Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; and Tokyo made the trip as part of the Sister City Program of the City of New York.

The 16-day public art installation, which ends Feb. 27, features 7,500 gates of saffron-colored fabric swaying in the breeze along 23 miles of the park's footpaths.

Sondheim's birthday bash

Broadway will celebrate composer **Stephen Sondheim's** 75th birthday with a gala benefit concert featuring a parade of theater stars.



Sondheim

Among the performers expected to appear at the New Amsterdam Theatre on March 21, the day before Sondheim's 75th birthday, are **Bernadette Peters**, **Nathan Lane**, **Matthew Broderick**, **Patti LaFave**, **Barbara Cook**, **Mandy Patinkin**, **Chita Rivera**, **Harvey Fierstein**, **Whoopi Goldberg**, **Audra McDonald**, **David Hyde Pierce**, **Dame Edna Everage** and more.

The evening is called "Children and Art," the title of a song from Sondheim's "Sunday in the Park With George." The show will benefit Young Playwrights Inc., an organization the composer helped found in 1981.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

A world full of
of snitches

If nobody likes a tattletale, why do so many get rich off spilling celebrity secrets?

BY JOAN RYAN

San Francisco Chronicle

Every child learns early on that tattletales occupy the lowest rung of the social ladder. The nose-picker and the paste-eater are **Paris Hilton** and **Nicole Richie** compared to the tattletale. From the swing set to the office cubicle to the kitchen table, there is a covenant of universal and uncompromising it seems stitched into our DNA: You don't blab to outsiders. You don't tell the secrets of the tribe.

So after centuries of reinforcing this covenant, passing it from generation to generation, the human race has evolved into a highly principled fellowship of blabbers and secret-tellers.

We hate gossip, but boy do we love our gossip. Perhaps we have always been so. But it is difficult to imagine a time when we have been as righteous about loyalty and as promiscuous about violating it.

The response to Jose Canseco's tell-all baseball book, released this week, captures perfectly the conflicting impulses. The author names specific baseball stars he says used steroids with him, and thus he has been savaged for being a snitch and a rat. Yet the book has sold enough copies to reach No. 3 on Amazon.com's best-seller list.

Tell-alls from athletes to former White House staffers to celebrity offspring are so common that, after the initial public condemnation, the betrayers often pay no long-term price. When **Jim Bouton** wrote the first tell-all sports book, "Ball Four," he became a pariah within the baseball establishment. The book came out in 1970. Not until 1998 did the New York Yankees, Bouton's former team, invite him to Old Timers' Day.

Today's snitches must weather a barrage of condemnation, but the cries fade much more quickly. **George Stephanopoulos**, for example, was roundly criticized for revealing in his 1999 memoir the explosive fights between **Bill and Hillary Clinton**, supposedly his good friends.

But the book sold well, and Stephanopoulos remains only a faint stain.

Glen Gabbard, a psychology professor at the Baylor College of Medicine, suggests that our initial outrage in hearing of a betrayal, and our tendency eventually to forgive it, has to do with recognizing our own impulse to betray trusts.

The receding horror we show when we hear of someone betraying a trust is a way of distancing ourselves from our own wish to gossip.

"We have developed an elaborate structure around the myth we have in our culture about organizations, friends, workplaces that there is a sense of trust and confidence in the people closest to us," said Gabbard, author of "The Psychology of the Sopranos: Love, Death, Desire, and Betrayal in America's Favorite Gangster Family."

"But it is the triumph of hope over experience to think that

people are actually going to keep secrets," Gabbard said.

Yet we do believe people will keep our secrets. Otherwise, we could never be who we really are, with all our weirdness and odd habits and irrational fears. Divorces become so bitter, in part, because the deepest cravings and intimacies that bound two people together are exposed and used as ammunition. There is something elemental about that kind of betrayal.

"When someone you trust betrays you, you are never quite the same again," said novelist **Tobias Wolff**, author of "This Boy's Life" and a literature professor at Stanford University. "It is something you learn about human beings. You learn to give up the un-self-conscious interactions you had a child. You can't rely on it. And you feel the loss of it."

Yet just as people didn't seem too surprised that **Linda Tripp** turned on her friend **Monica Lewinsky**, or that **Dick Morris** turned on the Clintons, or that a former lover turned on **Princess Diana**, people don't seem too surprised that Canseco turned on his teammates. He seemed that kind of character to begin with, a guy out for himself. He was never well-liked in the Oakland A's clubhouse. He never was one of the guys.

Still, as one former A's staffer told me this week, there was an expectation that even Canseco would respect the unspoken code in the clubhouse. "When people are bound together in a situation where they're under stress, they develop a code of social conduct," he said. "You don't blabber."

But people do blabber. And, despite our contempt, they'll keep on blabbering. Which, for me, means only one thing: If a known blabberer ever walks into a dinner party I'm attending, I hope their seat is the one right next to me.



Former Major League Baseball player **Jose Canseco** has made the latest big splash in the celebrity gossip pool with his book "Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids,' Smash Hits and How Baseball Got Big," which reached to No. 3 on Amazon.com's bestseller list.

AP

TUESDAY EVENING / FEBRUARY 22, 2005

MOVIES

• SPORTS

J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P •ESPNs Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Smallville "Talos" A Kwachirine alien is bestowed with superpowers similar to Clark's (CC)	*** "Something the Lord Made" (2004, Decadent) Alan Rickman, Mos Def, Mary McCormack. A lab technician helps a doctor with surgical techniques.	*** "Spartan" (2004, Decadent) Alan Rickman, Mos Def, Mary McCormack. A lab technician helps a doctor with surgical techniques.				Pacific Report	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (CC)	Lat Show With David Letterman (CC)	
7	AFN-AT (5:46) Oprah Winfrey (CC)	(3:51) Guiding Light (CC)	(1:17) General Hospital (CC)	Headline News	Judge Judy (CC)	Today (CC)					I Spy (CC)	Animanics
8	NEWS Harboal with Chris Matthews	The O'Reilly Factor (CC)		Fox and Friends First		Fox and Friends			Fox and Friends		American Morning	
9	SPORTS •\$5.00 Sports		•SportsCenter		•Sports						•SportsCenter	
10	SPECT The Simpsons Raymond A. Hoyle's day newsletter	Everybody Loves Raymond A "holer" day newsletter.	Star Trek: Enterprise "History" Archer goes to extremes to save Xindi hatchlings. (CC)	C&M Miami "Losing Face" Horatio sets out on a personal mission to find his mentor's killer. (CC)	Mark Twain (Part 1 of 4) (CC)	Friends Phoebe's attracted to Ursula's fiancé. (CC)	Seinfeld Elaine tells for a gay 80's quantance. (CC)	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart (CC)	Blind Date (CC)			
11	AFN-FM Behin-Sceen (1:5) "Barb Wire" (1996, Adventure) Jane Fonda, Michael Douglas. A beautiful bounty hunter must choose sides in a civil war. (R) (CC)	Rugrats The Proud Family Amanda	Verwood "Extra Ordinary" (CC)	Sister, Sister (CC)	Sister, Sister (CC)	The Cooley Show Home Improve.	Seinfeld Elaine tells for a gay 80's quantance. (CC)	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart (CC)	Blind Date (CC)			
14	TFM Victor, Victoria! A beautiful bounty hunter must choose sides in a civil war. (R) (CC)	Ent. Tonight Fameless Anderson Study (1999) News	Spacy, Annette Bening	*** "The Last Detail" (1973, Drama) Jack Nicholson, City Young, Randy Quaid. A naive sailor gets one last thing on record. (R) (CC)	(1:15) "Sawdust" (2002, Romance) John Cusack, Kevin Costner. A "True Dealer" (1976, Drama) Robert De Niro, Al Pacino. A psychotic New York cabman unleashes his rage on pimps. (R) (CC)							
24	PBS Oregon Tales Out of a friend of brother's. (CC) (DVS)	Zoom An aquatic race without a pod. (CC) (DVS)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N) (CC)	Now "The Viking Decapitation" The Vinland map once proved that the Vikings discovered the Americas. (N) (CC)	Frontline "The House of Saud" Saudi Arabia's Al Saud family and America's relations with it. (N) (CC)	(4:45) Black Showcase *** "Deacons for Defense" (2004, Drama) Forest Whitaker, Ossie Davis. Black men in 1960s Louisiana fight back against the KKK. (R) (CC)	*** "The Seven Years' War" (1988, Drama) Robert De Niro, Al Pacino. A psychotic New York cabman unleashes his rage on pimps. (R) (CC)	Charlie Rose Natan Shansky. (N) (CC)				
25	SHOW William H. Macy. A businesswoman's kidnapping escapes spirit of out. (CC)	(1:5) "The Year" (1988, Comedy-Drama) Frances McDormand, Susan Sarandon, William H. Macy. A businesswoman's kidnapping escapes spirit of out. (CC)	American Justice "Mail Order Murder" A man goes to jail for killing his wife. (CC)	High Tech Toys	Future Tense	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced			
26	DISC To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	High Tech Toys	Future Tense	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced			
27	TFC (1:15) TV Patrol World	OK, Fine Whatever	(1:5) Insider	Pipol	Kumaling Kabuhay	Wib, Ang Saye Saye	(1:5) Home Boy					
30	CNN+ Low Doubt Tonight	CNN Daybreak										
31	GOLF •4:30 PGA Golf Nationwide Tour - Jacobson's Creek Open - Third Round.	•Golf Central	American Justice "Mail Order Murder" A man goes to jail for killing his wife. (CC)	High Tech Toys	Future Tense	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced			
32	TLC The Powerpuff Girls	Dexter's Laboratory	Courage the Cowardly Dog	He-Man and the Masters of the Universe	Justice League	Titan Titans						
34	TOON The Most Extreme "Bloodsuckers" Creatures feast on blood. (N) (CC)	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show
35	ANPL The Most Extreme "Bloodsuckers" Creatures feast on blood. (N) (CC)	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show
36	COM The Most Extreme "Bloodsuckers" Creatures feast on blood. (N) (CC)	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show
40	NC-A The Most Extreme "Bloodsuckers" Creatures feast on blood. (N) (CC)	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show
42	SPKE The Most Extreme "Bloodsuckers" Creatures feast on blood. (N) (CC)	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show
43	FXX The Most Extreme "Bloodsuckers" Creatures feast on blood. (N) (CC)	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show
44	BET The Most Extreme "Bloodsuckers" Creatures feast on blood. (N) (CC)	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show
45	COURT The Most Extreme "Bloodsuckers" Creatures feast on blood. (N) (CC)	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show
46	STR-WL The Most Extreme "Bloodsuckers" Creatures feast on blood. (N) (CC)	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show
48	LIFE The Most Extreme "Bloodsuckers" Creatures feast on blood. (N) (CC)	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show
50	ADV 1 The Most Extreme "Bloodsuckers" Creatures feast on blood. (N) (CC)	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show
51	MTV The Most Extreme "Bloodsuckers" Creatures feast on blood. (N) (CC)	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show
60	NICK The Most Extreme "Bloodsuckers" Creatures feast on blood. (N) (CC)	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show

JAPAN TV

Morning
10:55 Korean Drama: Sangdo! Let's Go To School O.S.T. (4)
Afternoon
12:30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (12)
1:00 U.S. Movie (1983): Lone Wolf McQuade (2300) (12)
Evening
1:30 The World's Most Amazing Videos (2)
2:00 What's Like a Love (2)
2:30 The Simpsons (42)
10:00 News (1)

JAPAN TV-B57

Morning
6:15 World News
7:15 World News

3:35 World Golf Championships Preview (r)

6:15 Asian News
6:15 World News Hour
10:15 CBS Documentary: Drugs in South America (13)
11:15 CNN News
Afternoon
12:15 ABC News
1:25 PBS Newshour
1:30 Asian News
4:15 World News Hour
5:15 Asian News
Evening
6:15 CNN News
7:00 World News Today Asia
8:15 News Today Asia
9:15 Asian News
10:15 CBS Documentary: Drugs in South America (13)
11:15 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championship: Men's & Women's Cross-Country (12)
12:15 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championship: Jump (r)
1:15 Asia Champions Tour
2:15 Asian News

JAPAN TV-B511

Morning
6:15 Classical Music: Lars Vogt Piano Recital - 1 (1)
Afternoon
3:00 French Movie (1955): Marianne de Ma Jeunesse (1:45)
Evening
7:00 NHK News
8:00 British Movie (1949): The Third Man (1:50)
10:15 Series: The West Wing 3
12:00 U.S. Movie (2001): Apocalypse Now (Re: 2:35)

WOWOW

Morning
6:00 Wake Up
7:00 M Size Monday

6:00 World Choice

6:30 World Choice
7:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Antwone Fisher (2:02)
Afternoon
12:00 U.S. Movie: Third Watch
1:30 U.S. Movie (2002): Sweet August (1:34)
2:40 U.S. Movie (2003): The Matrix Revolutions (2:14)
3:00 World Choice
Evening
6:00 Spanish Series: Liga Espanola (r)
7:00 TV Series: Dawson's Creek
8:00 TV Series: CSI: Crime Scene Investigation - Miami (1)
10:00 U.S. Movie (1982): An Officer and a Gentleman (1:50)
11:00 U.S. Movie (1983): What's Eating Gilbert Grape (2:30)

MTV

Morning
6:00 Wake Up
7:00 M Size Monday

8:00 Top Choice

10:00 Pure Music
11:40 Top Choice
12:00 Faking the Video
12:30 Making the Video: Xzibit
1:00 Classic
2:00 Pure Music
3:00 Top Choice
5:00 JAPAN.COM News Chart Top 10
Evening
6:00 M Tuesday
7:00 World Chart Express Powered by
8:00 Catch
9:00 World
10:00 YATSI
11:00 Choice
12:00 Concessions: Going Under Ground
12:30 Music Download Chart Top 10
1:00 M Size Tuesday
2:00 Top Choice
3:00 Classic
3:30 Fresh
3:30 After Hours

ROSEANNE DASH

Morning
6:00 Wake Up
7:00 M Size Monday

STARS AND STRIPES

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Bring back patrol cap

I read with interest the article in Stars and Stripes about the new Army uniform and how quickly it is to become standard, even for Guard and reserve units ("Army uniforms set its new fashion," Feb. 11, Korea edition). I had the chance to see the new uniform in use and it looks like a good upgrade from the battle dress uniform and desert camouflage uniform.

During the transition from old to new, I would like to propose one more uniform change: Let's take this opportunity to change the headgear policy, bring back the patrol cap as standard wear with the utility uniform, and relegate the beret to be worn only with the Class A and B uniforms. The exceptions to the change would be those organizations that traditionally wear the beret (i.e. airborne, Special Forces).

During our year tour in Iraq, I can honestly say I didn't hear anyone say they couldn't wait to wear the beret again. I realize one of the original ideas behind the Army-wide wearing of the beret was to promote a sense of esprit de corps. Unfortunately, for day-to-day work, it's not very practical for work environments outside of the office. I think the uniform transition pe-

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E-mail: letters@stripes.com and

riod would be an excellent time to change the headgear policy.

Stg. 1st Class Les Kolden
Camp Virginia, Kuwait

More than beer on tap at Post 9985

By LEEANNE VASQUEZ
T he Feb. 16 article "VFW club offers an alternative for soldiers" (Korea edition) does a disservice to the members of this storied post. The article portrays the Freedom Bridge Memorial Post 9985 as an atypical "downrange club" whose only claim to fame is cheaper drinks and no "juicy girls." But that couldn't be further from the truth.

Post 9985, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars as an entity, offer more money to men and women who make sacrifices while serving their country. This includes military personnel, Department of Defense civilian workers, contractors, spouses and families.

The VFW was organized in 1899 by veterans of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection who were basically left to fend for themselves when the wars ended. The mission of the VFW is to "honor the dead by helping the living" through involvement with veterans services, community services, national security and national defense. The VFW is committed to ensuring that veterans and their families are provided the care and the entitlements they have earned through their selfless service by the sacrifices they made, and are still making, while in service to their country.

Post 9985 is heavily involved in the Tongducheon, South Korea, community. We offer scholarships to local students for the Voice of Democracy competition. Members volunteer their time to visit local schools and teach the students about flag etiquette and the history behind important national holidays such as the Fourth of July and Me-

morial Day. Every year Post 9985 hosts commemorative services to pay respect to servicemen around the world who have made (and are still making) the sacrifices or paid the ultimate price in support of freedom on Memorial Day, Pearl Harbor Day, Fourth of July, Veterans Day, Flag Day and Loyalty Day.

Members volunteer numerous hours "carpool" kids to school and visiting sick folks at home and in the hospital. We've also sponsored a local orphanage — providing barbecues, Halloween and Christmas parties, birthday parties, food drives to stock their depleted shelves when needed, and providing money to help defray the cost of high utility bills in the winter months.

We've aligned ourselves with the Tongducheon Angel Foundation, which offers assistance to people in the community who may be "down on their luck" and need help meeting even the basic needs — no matter what nationality. We've opened our doors to the community, and especially 2nd Infantry Division soldiers and their families, with Thanksgiving and Christmas buffets.

We've hosted 2nd ID unit "hail and farewell" and other get-togethers. We've co-sponsored events with the USO and MSO. We offer breakfast on Sunday mornings and our kitchen is open six nights a week for anyone wanting something to eat. So we're not just "any club off post." We are a servicemember- and family-oriented organization. We offer a place, within walking distance of the front gate of Camp Casey, for GIS, family members (we don't discriminate against kids early in the

Kindness is the key

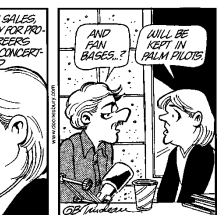
On Valentine's Day, I found myself parked at the Yongsan PX, my car keys in the car and my family on the outside looking in. After the Yongsan Fire Department loaned me a "skid" I spent about two hours finding out how well the manufacturer had designed the anti-theft devices that are intended to keep people from doing what I was desperately trying to do — break into my car.

During those two hours, at least a dozen people stopped to offer help, suggestions, good-luck wishes or a place for my wife and daughter to wait while I tried to get into my car — a true cross section of US military. There were men and women of all services as well as civilians offering to help.

Sadly, I was too preoccupied with my own problems to get a single name. For that I am truly sorry. To the gentleman who finely was able to help me get in, and to all of you who stopped to offer help or a kind word, thank you! I only hope someone will be able to repay their kindness in turn.

Air Force Master Sgt. Joseph W. Pond
Yongsan, South Korea

Doodlesbury Flashbacks



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

OPINION

Don't let Kim have his cake and eat it too

H turned 63 Wednesday, and extravagant celebrations honoring the authoritarian ruler were expected — pretty much mandated — throughout North Korea.

Eric Mink



Kim actually got the party started a week before his birthday with an official statement from his foreign minister that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (neither democratic nor a republic) possesses nuclear weapons. He simultaneously pulled North Korea out of the six-nation talks that were aimed at finding incentives for him to abandon his nuclear pursuits.

The double-barreled surprise thrust Kim into the world spotlight. "Attention must be paid," as the late Arthur Miller wrote of his sad salesman, Willy Loman.

But the hard-liners within the Bush administration would rather not pay attention to Kim. They prefer to go through the motions of diplomacy, letting the Chinese take the point while they gamble that Kim can be ignored to death. Their plan is to force Kim's regime into collapse through pressure tactics including, as The New York Times reported last week, the use of sophisticated computer tracking to "choke off its few remaining sources of income."

This is rationalization masquerading as strategy. President Bush seems to have concluded that Kim is both crazy and evil and that the United States stands to gain nothing by dealing directly with a madman.

Bush's attitude toward Kim is eerily consistent with the portrayal of the dictator in Team America: World Police, a relentlessly vulgar musical satire from the creators of the "South Park" TV series and, arguably, the funniest movie of 2004. In the film — all characters are string-controlled marionettes — Kim is a flat-out psychopath secretly plotting thousands of simultaneous terrorist attacks around the globe.

I don't know if Kim truly is psychopathic, but

although there's no question that he represses his people brutally and ruthlessly. It's worth noting that the intelligence services know even less about what's really happening inside North Korea than they did about Iraq. Some Western officials who have dealt personally with Kim describe a person up on his facts, astute about what he wants and nimble in negotiation.

It's not reassuring to see the foreign policy views of the U.S. president championed by a bawdy puppet movie; the supposed insanity of an adversary is simply too convenient an excuse for diplomatic failure.

And in fact, at least some of Kim's moves — disconcerting as they are — make perfect sense. Under the Agreed Framework of 1994, for example, the United States promised to supply North Korea with two nuclear-powered light-water electric plants and take clearly timed steps toward normalized relations. For its part, North Korea promised to take specific steps back from its development of nuclear technology and permit independent verification.

The plants never were built, the steps never taken. North Korea secretly started on its nuclear path. Bush's subsequent policy of non-negotiation — and the invasion of Iraq — have only given Kim more incentive to continue.

One of Bush's strengths as a leader, we're told, is that he says what he means and means what he says. Why then do he and his staff seem so oblivious to the consequences of their words? In the summer of 2003, days before the start of multination talks about North Korea in Beijing, Undersecretary of State John Bolton, one of Bush's cadre of neo-conservatives, publicly denounced Kim as a "tyrannical dictator." Surprise: The talks produced nothing.

A year later, at a campaign appearance in Hudson, Wis., Bush again called Kim a "tyrant," the same word he used in the same speech to describe Saddam Hussein. North Korea's foreign ministry responded with a statement calling Bush "a political imbecile bereft of even elementary morality as a human being and a bad guy ... Bush is a tyrant that puts Hitler into the shade."

At her Senate confirmation hearings, Condoleezza Rice, then Bush's nominee to be



secretary of state, placed North Korea among the world's "outposts of tyranny." In his inaugural address two days later, Bush proclaimed the United States' "ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world."

Was it at all irrational for Kim to regard those statements as a direct threat? Indeed, North Korea's statement this month specifically cited Bush's and Rice's comments in explaining why it has "manufactured nukes for self-defense."

In a present analysis of Bush's antiterrorism strategies, Jeffrey Record of the U.S. Air Force's Air War College in Montgomery, Ala., warned that the war in Iraq was likely to accelerate the nuclear activities of such countries as North Korea. "If anything," Record wrote in his December 2003 report, "rogue-state regimes see in such weapons a means of deterring American military action against themselves."

Bush and company counter that the Libya success story proves the Iraq war has been a powerful incentive for nuclear disarmament.

After seeing the United States depose Saddam, the story line goes, Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi decided to give up his nuclear and chemical weapons programs. Nonsense, said Flynt Leverett, who ran Middle Eastern affairs for Bush's National Security Council from 2002 to 2003.

In an op-ed piece last year for The New York Times, Leverett described Libya's decision as the end product of a long, step-by-step diplomatic process that began in the Clinton administration and was brought to fruition in the Bush administration by keeping the issue away from the neo-conservative hard-liners. After Sept. 11, 2001, however, the neo-cons were firmly in charge, Leverett wrote, and Bush failed to pursue comparable opportunities with both Iran and Syria.

Given this month's developments with North Korea, we seem to be in for more years of lurching from one foreign policy crisis to the next.

Eric Mink is commentary editor for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Zimbabwe leader an affront to an improved Africa

The Washington Post

Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's 80-year-old dictator, refers to the U.S. secretary of state as a "girl" who ought to know that "the white man is not a friend." He also regards Zimbabwe's suffering people as children who shouldn't be trusted with a say in their own country. He rigged elections in 2000 and 2002. The parliamentary election scheduled for March 31 looks likely to be no better.

In the run-up to next month's vote, Mugabe has prevented the opposition party from advertising, restricted its meetings, pressed fresh treason charges against its leader and directed militias to intimidate its organizers. Mugabe also has used food shortages as a political weapon, denying relief to opponents. He has harassed election monitoring groups, detained some of the few remaining independent journalists and seized control of the electoral commission. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the veteran South African anti-apartheid campaigner, has called the Mugabe dictatorship a "huge blot" on Africa. In response, a Mugabe henchman accuses the archbishop of being in thrall to the "false gods, Tony Blair and George Bush."

The question is whether the rest of Africa is going to allow Zimbabwe's aging racist to

equat political freedom with colonial repression. The continent's two powerhouses, South Africa and Nigeria, are both democratic and are trying to spread democratic values across the continent. According to Freedom House, 32 African countries are free or partly free; 16 are classified as unfree. The South African and Nigerians scored a victory recently by leading a continentwide denunciation of an undemocratic

succession in the West African state of Togo. Their firmness is having an effect: Togo's regime has promised an election within 60 days, as called for in its constitution.

Taking on Zimbabwe is tougher. But Mugabe is mocking Africa's talk of democracy so openly that the continent's leaders, notably South African President Thabo Mbeki, must not duck the challenge. A force-

ful denunciation of Mugabe's repression, coupled with the threat of sanctions, might quickly force the dictator to change; Zimbabwe depends on South Africa economically.

The rewards to democratic Africa for tough action would be substantial. The rich world is debating a possible scaling up of development aid this year. The money is more likely to flow if Africans show the courage to address their most obvious shortcomings.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Backing Boone road

KY PIKEVILLE — A Kentucky congressman whose name took the place of Daniel Boone's on a prominent mountain highway is endorsing a proposal to rename another highway after the famous frontiersman.

U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers said he wants U.S. 25E to be renamed the Daniel Boone Wilderness Road, a move that would appease Boone's descendants, who were offended when state officials renamed the Daniel Boone Parkway for Rogers.

"That was done without my knowledge," Rogers said. "It was a surprise to me. But they have named various parkways throughout the state for people in public life ... and I was honored."

Alleged rapist sniffed out

MA QUINCY — A restaurant manager accused of raping an employee at knifepoint was arrested after the woman told police she knew her masked attacker was her boss because of his bad breath.

Tuen "Dickie" Lee, 36, of Quincy, pleaded innocent in district court to charges including three counts of aggravated rape. He was ordered held on \$100,000 bail.

Lee was arrested eight days after the Feb. 3 incident, based on DNA evidence that tied him to the crime scene, police said.

Police said they focused on Lee when the victim told them she recognized the attacker from his breath odor.

Fake passports seized

OH CINCINNATI — Fake passports created by an Austrian artist for a contemporary museum exhibit were confiscated at an airport after a customs agent thought they might be harmful if imported, government and museum officials said.

"I think it says a lot about the condition of our world today, that everyone is understandably on the alert," said Contemporary Arts Center director Linda Shearer.

The items were supposed to be included in the museum's exhibit titled "State of Sabotage," which focuses on government or corporate power over the individual, Shearer said.

Ex-lawmen raided

TX HOUSTON — Two former jailers and a man who once worked for the constable's office have been accused of robbing and threatening to arrest prospective customers of women posing as prostitutes.

The suspects have been charged with engaging in organized criminal activity in a conspiracy to commit robbery.

Murphy L. Randall, 36, and Undre Skinner, 40, worked as jailers at sheriff's headquarters in Richmond. Yusuf West, 28, once worked for the Harris County Precinct 6 Constable's office.

Harris County Assistant District Attorney Joe Owmby said the scheme centered on a Houston apartment complex where Randall and Skinner worked second jobs as security guards. He said the scheme went on from June to about November.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

"In most of the cases, they took whatever cash these guys had and said they weren't going to take them to jail this time," Owmby said.

Stabbing sentence

NY NEW YORK — A man trained in a Filipino knife-fighting technique was sentenced to 17 years in prison for fatally stabbing a nightclub bouncer who tried to enforce the city's indoor smoking ban.

Isaiah Umali — who was convicted in November of first-degree manslaughter in the April 2003 death of Dana "Shazam" Blake — had faced up to 25 years in prison.

State Supreme Court Justice Bonnie Witrner said the 6-inch serrated knife Umali used on Blake, 32, was "the deadliest knife I've ever seen in a courtroom. There can be no other purpose but to injure or kill somebody."

Illegal driving legalities

UT SALT LAKE CITY — The Utah Senate voted to take driver's licenses away from people who cannot prove they are legal U.S. residents and issue them a driving "privilege" card instead.

Lawmakers voted 18-8 to approve the measure, which goes next to the House. Gov. Jon Hunts-

man said that he would support it.

Senators said they were alarmed by an investigation that found 58,000 undocumented workers had Utah driver's licenses and that some non-citizens were able to use the licenses to register to vote and cast ballots at the polls.

"It's scary, being taken advantage of," Republican state Sen. Gregory Bell said. "Once they get a Utah driver's license, it's a platform for everything else."

Gang shooting law waits

VA RICHMOND — Legislation that would subject street gang members to the death penalty for carrying out gang-ordered shootings likely will await next year's session after a Senate panel deferred action.

The bill, intended to deter savage, deadly attacks of gangs such as MS-13 proliferating in Virginia, was referred to the state Crime Commission for study on a unanimous Courts of Justice Committee voice vote.

Del. David Albo said his bill essentially would treat a killing ordered by a gang chieftain as murder-for-hire, making the killer and the person who ordered it eligible for execution.

Presently, gang-directed killings are not subject to capital punishment.

Lobster disease spreads

RI NARRAGANSETT — More lobsters are contracting shell disease, and the problem has spread from southern New England waters all the way to Maine, scientists said at a symposium analyzing a phenomenon that has mysteriously afflicted the industry in recent years.

Shell disease now affects 30 percent of lobsters in coastal areas of southern New England and Long Island Sound, according to researchers. It's still unclear what's causing the disease, researchers said, and what's causing it to spread.

The disease does not taint the lobsters' meat, but makes shells so unsightly that they are too unappealing to serve whole. It can weaken lobsters so much that they prematurely die, though experts don't have any concrete figures.

Prank 911 calls

RI ST. LOUIS — A teenager has been accused of using a stolen cell phone to swamp dispatchers with hundreds of bogus 911 calls over a matter of weeks, at times talking of killing some of the responding officers he could see.

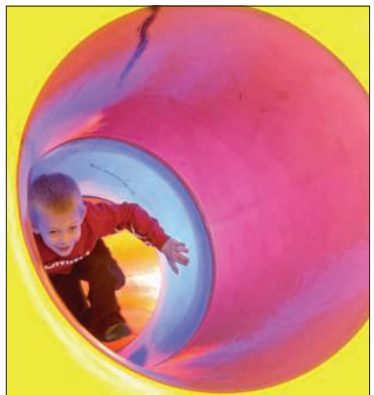
The 15-year-old boy sometimes was such a nuisance he called in new emergencies at the same address where officers already were standing. St. Louis County Police spokesman Mason Keller said.

Such was the case when the young culprit was tracked down only after dispatchers fielded 25 bogus calls within 75 minutes to the same area where the officer already had arrived, Keller said.

The boy has been referred to St. Louis County Family Court, where information on possible charges was not immediately available. He was not identified because he is charged as a juvenile.



Charitable kisses Steven Walker, principal of Dover Elementary School in Pennsylvania, kisses a pig to fulfill his promise to the students for reaching their fund-raising goal for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The children raised more than \$4,000 in their "Giving from the Heart" campaign.



Tubular fun Park in Pittsburgh, Kan.

Zach Uttley, 5, climbs upward through a slipper-slide tunnel while playing in Lefler Rotary



Winter shield

Erma Hernandez walks across Fayette Street in downtown Syracuse, N.Y., shielding her son, Jacon Ramos, 3, from the snow with an umbrella.



Teamwork Abigail Martinez, 10, left, holds the water fountain faucet as Vicky Becerra, 8, center, holds up her sister, Connie Becerra, 5, at the Mesilla Plaza in Mesilla, N.M.



Wrestling pretzel Cody Martin of Forbush High School in East Bend ties up Brett Williams, bottom, of North Henderson High School in Hendersonville during their 130-pound match at the Class 1A-2A North Carolina High School Athletic Association wrestling championships in Winston-Salem, N.C.



Vintage beauty Rick Ziel, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., shines up a B-17 bomber at the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport.



Taking a break Jesse Corwin, 16, pauses while teaching a swimming class at a city pool in Great Falls, Mont.

Body parts found

NY NEW YORK — The human remains found by a transit worker in a Brooklyn subway tunnel belonged to a 19-year-old man, police said.

The body parts — two legs severed just below the torso — had been stuffed in a plastic bag, said police spokesman Detective Eric Crisafi.

The remains belonged to Rashawn Brazell of Brooklyn, Crisafi said.

The investigation is ongoing, Crisafi said.

Teacher arrested

FL ORLANDO — A high school chemistry teacher was arrested after students claimed he taught his class how to make a bomb, authorities said.

David Pieski used an overhead projector in class to give instructions in making explosives to students at Freedom High School, including advising them to use an electric detonator to stay clear from the blast, an Orange County sheriff's arrest report said.

In Pieski's classroom in Orlando, authorities found a book labeled "Demo," which includes the chemical breakdown for a powerful explosive, the arrest report said.

Pieski was charged with possessing or discharging a destructive device and culpable negligence. Pieski, who was booked into the Orange County Jail and released on \$1,000 bail, declined to comment.

Listerine DUI

MI ADRIAN — A woman who pleaded guilty to driving while drunk on three glasses of Listerine was sentenced to two years of probation.

Officials suspected Carol Ries, 50, was intoxicated after her rear-ended another vehicle at a red light in January. Police found a bottle of the mouthwash in her car. She passed one breath test, but failed another that used different equipment. Her blood alcohol level was .30 percent, more than three times the legal limit.

According to Listerine manufacturer Pfizer Inc.'s Web site, original formula Listerine contains 26.9 percent alcohol, more than four times that of many malt liquors, while other varieties contain 21.6 percent alcohol.

Man suspected of abuse

TX MIDLAND — A Midland man faces child endangerment charges on accusations that he chained a 4-year-old boy by the neck and held a knife to his older brother's neck, authorities said.

Thomas Mitchell Lynskey, 31, is accused of harming his girlfriend's two sons in November, Midland County sheriff's investigator Rick Rowland said.

Lynskey surrendered to authorities after learning of an arrest warrant and was released on \$10,000 bond the same day.

Elk to roam free

CA LOS BANOS — Dozens of tule elk will be sent to areas where they can roam freely, from the northern Coast Ranges to the southern Sierra Nevada, in an attempt to restore a native California species that has rebounded from

the brink of extinction.

"We were down to an Adam and an Eve, for all we know," said Jon Fischer, head of the elk capture project for the California Department of Fish and Game. "This has been a real success story."

Tule elk exist only in California, where they once roamed the San Joaquin Valley and the foothills of the Sierra Nevada.

Focus on asbestos

MT LIBBY — They're getting ready for the Asbestos Health Fair in this old mining town.

Posters promise "Door Prizes!" and "Blood draw to participate in ongoing research!" Companies that sell home oxygen supplies will send reps. Doctors and researchers will be here.

There will be consultants to help asbestosis victims apply for public aid. And there will be advice on finding help with the housework when the disease becomes too much.

To visitors to the town of some 8,000 people, it all must seem surreal. To the locals, this has, sadly, become part of life in Libby.

Asbestos released into the air from the now-closed W.R. Grace and Co. vermiculite mine just down the road is blamed by some health authorities for killing some 200 people and sickening one of every eight residents.

A federal grand jury indicted the company and seven executives, accusing them of conspiring for decades to hide the danger. Grace has denied any criminal wrongdoing and said it looks forward to "setting the record straight" in court.

For many in town, the indictments mean those responsible will finally be held accountable.

Recruiting tennis fans

AZ SCOTTSDALE — NHL fans left on the sidelines can get the jump on a new game: tennis.

Hockey fans who show up for the first two days of the ATP Tour event wearing Phoenix Coyotes hockey jerseys will be given free tickets for the tennis tournament.

The Tennis Channel announced its offer to hockey fans. The first 500 people wearing a Coyotes jersey to the day or night sessions at the tournament can claim a free ticket at the will-call window.

"With their new free time, hockey fans can come see the spectacular athleticism, finesse and artistry happening right now in big-time tennis," Bellamy said in a statement.

Court spares dog's life

NE LINCOLN — The state Supreme Court granted clemency to a dog sentenced to death for fighting with a neighbor's pet.

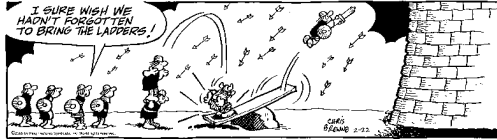
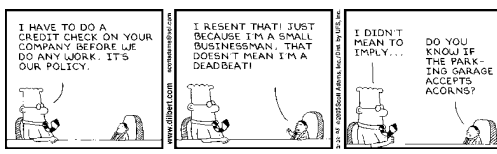
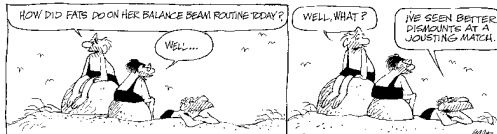
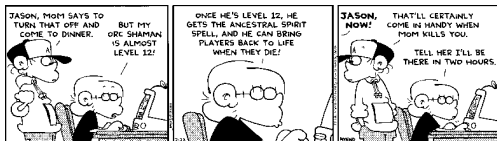
The high court ruled that Murphy, an Alaskan malamute-shepherd mix belonging to Doug and Lorelei Dittoe, should not be killed for causing "relatively minor injury" to the other dog after slipping out of the couple's fenced-in yard in 2001.

Murphy had been deemed dangerous by the county sheriff, and a judge ordered her destroyed.

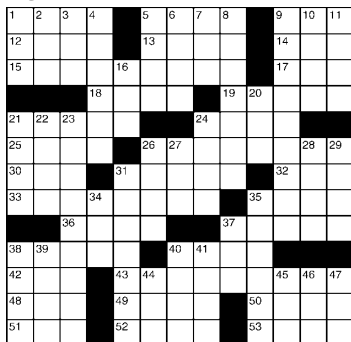
Now, the Dittoes are planning a party for Murphy.

"She might just get a steak," Lorelei Dittoe said.

Stories and photos from wire services



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Mexican entree
- 5 Prunes
- 9 Snoop Dogg's genre
- 12 "Bonanza" brother
- 13 Part of the foot
- 14 "— was saying,
- 15 Georgia school
- 17 Pooch
- 18 Contact, for one
- 19 Enjoyment
- 21 Fluctuate
- 24 Chime
- 25 Egress
- 26 Bee activity
- 30 The whole shoot match
- 31 Basin accessory
- 32 "To Whom

Down

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Highlander's | school |
| | topper | 24 Ernie's buddy |
| 2 | Big brother | 26 Former uppy |
| 3 | Daytona entry | 27 duckling |
| 4 | Bunch offering | 27 Place for 11-Down |
| 5 | "The—King" | 28 Asta's mistress |
| 6 | Burden | 29 Suitable |
| 7 | Home-office expt. | 31 Instance |
| 8 | Money of Israel | 34 Charters chum |
| 9 | Massachusetts | 35 Collar |
| | school | 37 Paper Mate rival |
| 10 | "Dilbert" interns | 38 Pickle type |
| 11 | Swine | 39 Falco of "The |
| 16 | Part of H.R.H. | "Sopranos" |
| 20 | Under the | 40 Languish |
| | weather | 41 Unquished (Abbr.) |
| 21 | Have on | 44 Roulette bet |
| 22 | Wheelbase | 45 Snake eyes |
| | terminus | 46 Scull tool |
| | | 47 Comedian Louis |

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-22

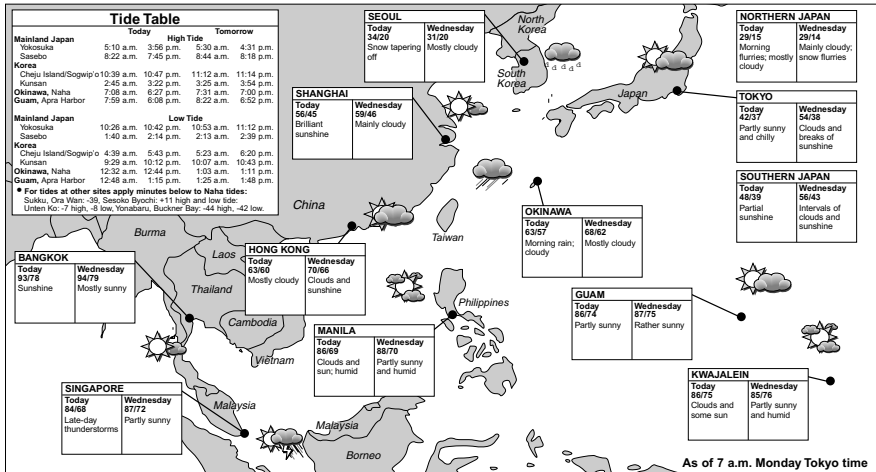
CRYPTOQUIP

T Q Q B U S C R T R S K O
USQVOTALE YLK QYXVVSCR
ITR. SH AXBOE IL OLLC

T Q T H X H L - T O O O X Q Q .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I GUESS THE WORLD'S
 SECOND-BEST WRITING IMPLEMENT COULD
 BE CALLED THE PEN ULTIMATE.

The Pacific Forecast

AccuWeather.com

Forecasts and graphics, provided
by AccuWeather.com ©2005

Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Thursday: Periods of clouds and sun, high 52, low 46.
 Friday: Periods of clouds and sun, high 60, low 37.

KADENA

Thursday: Thunderstorms, high 78, low 67.
 Friday: Mostly cloudy, high 72, low 61.

SEoul

Thursday: Snow flurries, high 41, low 19.
 Friday: Partly sunny, high 32, low 13.

MANILA

Thursday: Partly sunny, high 92, low 72.
 Friday: Partly sunny, high 90, low 73.

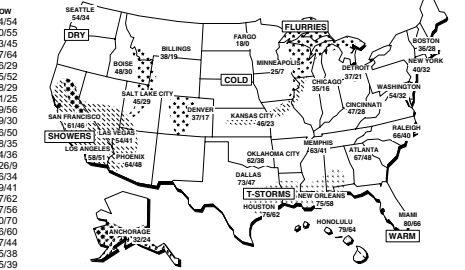
HAGATNA

Thursday: Partly sunny, high 87, low 75.
 Friday: Partly sunny, high 87, low 76.

Sunday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	54/33	Los Angeles	64/54
Amarillo	69/38	Little Rock	70/55
Anchorage	34/26	Louisville	53/45
Asheville	45/40	Miami	77/64
Baltimore	42/35	Milwaukee	36/29
Birmingham	61/57	Nashville	55/52
Bismarck	25/8	New York	38/29
Boise	47/34	Omaha	51/25
Boston	32/20	Orlando	79/56
Brownsville	83/64	Philadelphia	39/30
Buffalo	28/22	Phoenix	68/50
Burlington	16/6	Pittsburgh	38/35
Charleston, SC	62/52	Portland, OR	54/36
Charlotte	52/44	Portland, ME	26/9
Chicago	42/26	Salt Lake City	46/34
Columbus, OH	47/41	St. Louis	59/41
Duluth	27/13	San Antonio	77/62
El Paso	67/44	San Diego	67/56
Hartford	39/19	San Juan	80/70
Helena	36/19	Tampa	76/60
Indianapolis	48/40	Tulsa	77/44
Jacksonville	74/56	Washington, DC	45/38
Kansas City	65/34	Wichita	65/39

Tuesday, February 22



U.S. Extended Forecast

A stormy weather pattern will cover the nation through the middle of the week. Tuesday will start with snow falling across the Great Lakes and northern New England. Cold air will accompany the snow and keep temperatures below normal from the northern Plains to the Middle Atlantic. Rain will continue to plague the Southwest and Southern California. Clouds will bring snow to parts of the central Plains. A storm will begin to gather strength over the Southwest Wednesday. Rain and mountain snow will spread across Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. Cold air will continue to chill the Northeast and Midwest. Frigid winds will trigger lake-effect snow downwind of the Great Lakes.

Tuesday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	33/78	Wakani	50/43
Beijing	28/14	Kadena AB	63/57
Camp Casey	34/23	Kunsan AB	41/32
Christchurch	72/54	Kwajalein	86/75
Diego Garcia	89/79	Manila	86/69
Hagatna	86/74	Masawa AB	34/28
Hanoi	82/63	Osan	36/25
Hong Kong	63/60	Pert	70/56
Honolulu	79/64	Pusan	46/36

Tuesday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Accapulco	89/71	Budapest	41/35
Athens	60/45	Katol	48/22
Auckland	69/57	Buenos Aires	88/70
Baghdad	72/45	Cairo	73/51
Barbados	86/69	Cancun	84/68
Barcelona	48/37	Madrid	39/37
Berlin	26/18	Geneva	31/22
Bermuda	66/58	Montreal	28/10
Brussels	34/19	Moscow	92/77
		Mogadishu	28/20
		Warsaw	29/28



Sell it.....Free!

Advertise your car, truck, motorcycle, boat or bicycle in Stars and Stripes. No charge! On us! Up to 7 lines of copy for 24 hours - free! Call Classified today at 225-3276 or email us at classified@starsandstripes.com. Individuals only - no dealers!

The Hometown Newspaper
STARS AND STRIPES
www.starsandstripes.com

Autos for Sale
- Okinawa 152

Kadena - 1991 Toyota Hiace Van - JCI 07/2006, power sunroof, moon roof, power windows, locks, AM/FM radio, CD & cassette, tinted windows, A/C front and rear, new battery, engine rebuilt April 2003. \$3000 or OBO call 633-7268 or email jreese45@hotmail.com

Kadena - 1992 Nissan Familia - 4door, cold A/C, great condition

Autos for Sale	152
----------------	-----

Mitchell at HP# 633-6132, DP#
 Mitchell at cell 900-9786-3085
 email Brandon.
 Mitchell@kadena@aol
 Kadena - 1994 Toyota Exiv.
 Automatic. White exterior,
 Brown interior. \$2900 OBO. JCI
 date 03/2006. Power Locks,
 Cassette Player, CD Player, Air
 Conditioning, Power Steering,
 Power Windows, Spoiler, Home
 Phone: 633-5045 (leave message)
 monnie9000@yahoo.com
 Kadena - 1995 Honda Domani -
 Beautiful silver car in excellent
 condition! Low mileage: 68k km,
 cd player, cold a/c, power

autos for Sale		Aut
kinawa	152	- O

Not a valid JCI due Nov. 06, 2006. Call to sell ASAP. \$3000 OBO. Looking to consider fair offers, no payments possible. Call 633-2515.

Model - 94 Toyota Carina ED - until Dec '06. Keyless entry, A/C, power windows, automatic, CD player 2000 or OBO. 633-0026 after 1700 or leave a message.

Model - 94 Toyota Lucida Van - good til FEB 2007. Diesel, 5 speed, Dual A/C, AM/FM/CD stereo, Sonar. Very clean. 2000 obo. Call 633-5759.

Auto	152	Auto
- Oki		- Oki

94 Skyline GTS-1, Cruz
summer in style! Turbo
GTR ground effects, Blit
tinted, CD player, A/C,
FM Tuned, New Rear
\$5500 OBO Comes with
steering wheel, Tins, etc.
67-4386 or 090 8294 1554
all jenn8164@yahoo.com

wa - 1993 Toyota Town
5-Dr, Auto, A/C, JCI to
50s, ex-cond, One Owner.
call 090-3196-2087 or
jcnova@i-oki-nawa.ne.jp

wa - 1997 Toyota Scap
blue/silver, auto, A/C, all

For Sale	152	Auto Pa
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Okinaawa - HKS GT3040
KIT: Includes manifold,
cable, down pipe, and
Manifold for 1JZ engines
on Cresta/Mark III's.
Serious inquiries @
\$1,500 call Shwin @
L.

Okinaawa - Car Stereo:
KRC-888 Cassette
black, 45w x 4, removal-
plate, Dolby B/C, direct
select, front/rear pre-
amp.

s	180	Bicycles
---	-----	----------

Size XXS
meisjewels
632-3320

220	Collectibles
-----	--------------

(yrs) \$0. Email
 yahoo.com or call
 645-4544
 - Women's
 5-7, sizes size 5
 shoe size 5, shoes
 10 to boy's size 3
 brands. Take all or
 OBO 3-4 Large
 Call 637-4386 or
 1554 or email
 yahoo.com
 Lots of maternity
 small and medi-
 um. T-shirts and
 dresses and pants \$7,
 shoes \$10. Call
 645-4544

350

- Antique Maple Veneer bow front, 4 drawers, 4 doors, 1 side. China shelves, 1 long cabinet, both in \$1,000 firm. Call or b_n_ for pic.
- Blue Big Boy Original \$499 Call or b_n_ for pic.

Computers	360
-----------	-----

Post, Okinawa - Blue Big Boy
AZBOY recliner - Original \$499

Book Stores 250

Size XX (2-3 yrs) \$25 Email
mellejewels@yahoo.com or call
632-3320.

Kinser, Okinawa - Women's
clothing: Size 5-7, shoes size 5
1/2. Boys' clothing size 5, shoes
sizes Toddler 10 to boy's size 3
mostly name brands. Take all or
none for \$200 OBO 3-4 Large
trash bags full. Call 637-4386 or
jenn8294 1554 or email
jenn8164@yahoo.com

Yongsan - Lots of maternity
clothes, mostly small and medi-
um, all seasons. T-shirts and
shorts \$5, blouses and pants \$7.

Lawrence - 18 speed mountain helmet. Excellent condition. \$40. Please call Steve @ 646-8725.

<p>yles - Japan 166</p>	<p>Pack and changing</p>
-------------------------	------------------------------

Okinaawa - HKS GT3040
OKT: Includes manifold,
cable, down pipe, and
Manifold for 1JZ engines
on Cresta/Mark III/IV.
Serious inquiries @
\$1,500 call Shwin @
L.

Okinaawa - Car Stereo:
KRC-888 Cassette
black, 45w x 4, removal-
plate, Dolby B/C, direct
select, front/rear pre-
amp.

1203oc's, Excellent

Okinaawa - HKS GT3040
OKT: Includes manifold,
cable, down pipe, and
Manifold for 1JZ engines
on Cresta/Mark III/IV.
Serious inquiries @
\$1,500 call Shwin @
L.

Okinaawa - Car Stereo:
KRC-888 Cassette
black, 45w x 4, removal-
plate, Dolby B/C, direct
select, front/rear pre-
amp.

\$7500.FIRM. Hon

Okinaawa - HKS GT3040
OKT: Includes manifold,
cable, down pipe, and
Manifold for 1JZ engines
on Cresta/Mark III/IV.
Serious inquiries @
\$1,500 call Shwin @
L.

Okinaawa - Car Stereo:
KRC-888 Cassette
black, 45w x 4, removal-
plate, Dolby B/C, direct
select, front/rear pre-
amp.

220

12 Trek 4300 Hardtail aluminum frame, 8-speed Shimano shifters, Shimano V-brakes & more. Bought new for \$150 give away for \$150. **Steve @ 646-8725.**

Lawna - BIKE FOR adult mountain bike for \$21 speeds and is black. It has a smaller seat. It is good for people 5'5". It is used but good. \$40. Please call. **12.**

Lawna - Men's Dia-mond 18 speed mountain helmet. Excellent condition. \$25. **Steve @ 646-8725.**

...gray colored Ashtray
...seat. A little damage
...very good condition
...call 645-4164.

...Okinawa - Ant
...gany with Tiger Maple
...BUFFET has bow
...awars in middle, dra
...binet on each side
...binet has 3 shelves
...awer and cabinet,
...cellent condition \$1,
...all 646-5283 or
...brown@yahoo.com
...ter.

...Okinawa - Blue
...ZBOY recliner - Orig
...Lumbar, knee
...C

with call 645-4164.

BUFFET has bow
l drawers in middle, d
cabinet on each side
cabinet has 3 shelves
lower and cabinet,
excellent condition \$1,
call 646-5283 or
brown@yahoo.com
res.

SCOREBOARD

WEST

Baldwin, H. Hope 62
 31, Alamo Heights 53, Capital 68
 32, 27, Akron 53
 Black Hills 56, Valley City St. 60
 Calumet 53, Cleveland 54
 Clark, Ed. Adrian 49
 20, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841,

college baseball

Saturday's scores

[illegible]

Texas-Arlington 5, Kansas St. 4

Diege Hocke

[illegible]

34. (36) Kertus Davis, Che
\$42,150.
35. (33) Jason Keller, Ford, 119.

[illegible]

120, Stuart Appleby
Jay Haas
Loren Roberts

1	Chris Dimarco		
2	Chris Williams		
3	Greg Owen		
4	John Williams		
5	Brian Day		
6	Steve Hogg		
7	John Elliott		
8	John Williams		
9	Paul Hurry		
10	John Williams		
11	James	Failed to Qualify	
12	Chris Franco		
13	Chris Williams		
14	Carl Peterson		
15	John Williams		
16	John Sinden		
17	John Williams		
18	Geoff Ogilby		
19	John Williams		
20	Mark Calvechchia		
21	John Williams		
22	Steve Hogg		
23	Chris Peterson		
24	Reyll Mills		
25	Reynold Hirtzsch		
Champions Tour Classic			
1	Sam Snead	Sunday	
2	At The Club at the Pines	Final Round	
3	Sam Snead	Purse: \$1.6 million	
4	Sam Snead	Final Round	
5	Tom Jones	\$128,000	
6	Sam Snead	\$128,000	
7	Mike Reid	\$78,033.34	
8	Sam Snead	\$53,033.33	
9	Mike McCullough		
10	Sam Snead	\$57,600	
11	Morris Hirtzsch	\$54,000	
12	Sam Snead	\$54,000	
13	Sam Snead	\$54,000	
14	Sam Snead	\$51,000	
15	Sam Snead	\$51,000	
16	Sam Snead	\$51,000	
17	Sam Snead	\$51,000	
18	Sam Snead	\$51,000	
19	Sam Snead	\$51,000	
20	Sam Snead	\$51,000	
21	Sam Snead	\$51,000	
22	Sam Snead	\$51,000	
23	Sam Snead	\$51,000	
24	Sam Snead	\$51,000	
25	Sam Snead	\$51,000	
Malaysian Open			
1	At Singapore Golf Club	Sunday	
2	John Williams	Final Round	
3	John Williams	Purse: \$1.2 million	
4	John Williams	Final Round	
5	Thongchai Jaidee		
6	John Williams		
7	John Williams		
8	John Williams		
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25	John Williams		
Tennk			
1	RMK Champions		
2	At The Racquet Club		
3	RMK Champions		
4	Purse: \$500,000		
5	RMK Champions		
6	RMK Champions		
7	RMK Champions		
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21	RMK Champions		
22	RMK Champions		
23	RMK Champions		
24	RMK Champions		
25	RMK Champions		
Diamond Gas			
1	At Sportsplace		
2	Diamond Gas		
3	Purse: \$500,000		
4	Diamond Gas		
5	Diamond Gas		
6	Diamond Gas		
7	Diamond Gas		
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23	Diamond Gas		
24	Diamond Gas		
25	Diamond Gas		
ABN AMR			

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—142 E

Year	Group	Club	Rank
2003	-13		
2005	-11		
2006	-10		
2007	-9		
2008	-8		
2009	-7		
2010	-6		
2011	-5		
2012	-4		
2013	-3		
2014	-2		
2015	-1		
2016	E		
2017	+1		
2018	+2		
2019	+3		
2020	+4		
2021	+5		
2022	+6		
2023	+7		
2024	+8		
2025	+9		
2026	+10		
2027	+11		
2028	+12		
2029	+13		
2030	+14		
2031	+15		
2032	+16		
2033	+17		
2034	+18		
2035	+19		
2036	+20		
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2060	+44		
2061	+45		
2062	+46		
2063	+47		
2064	+48		
2065	+49		
2066	+50		
2067	+51		
2068	+52		
2069	+53		
2070	+54		
2071	+55		
2072	+56		
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2109	+93		
2110	+94		
2111	+95		
2112	+96		
2113	+97		
2114	+98		
2115	+99		
2116	+100		
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2129	+113		
2130	+114		
2131	+115		
2132	+116		
2133	+117		
2134	+118		
2135	+119		
2136	+120		
2137	+121		
2138	+122		
2139	+123		
2140	+124		
2141	+125		
2142	+126		
214			

Champions Tour-ACE Group Classic

Sunday
At The Club at TwinEagles
Naples, Fla.

Purse: \$2.6 million	
Final Round	
Mark James, \$128,000	70-69-66-65-203-13
Tommy Lasorda, \$128,000	70-69-66-65-205-11
Mike Reid, \$78,933.34	70-68-68-66-206-10
Wayne Lee, \$78,933.33	70-68-68-66-206-10
Mike McCullough	68-69-71-71-206-10
Wayne Lee, \$57,600	68-70-67-67-207-9
Morris Mattheus, \$54,000	70-70-65-66-208-8
Tommy Lasorda, \$44,000	68-70-68-68-208-8
Bes Smith, \$44,000	69-72-67-69-209-7
Wayne Lee, \$44,000	68-70-68-68-209-7
Rodger Davis, \$41,600	72-70-67-69-209-7
Tommy Lasorda, \$31,600	68-70-68-68-209-7
Don Pookey, \$31,600	69-70-70-69-209-7
R. B. Eaks, \$26,400	68-70-68-68-209-7
D. L. Worthing, \$26,400	70-69-71-71-210-6
R. B. Eaks, \$26,400	68-70-68-68-210-6
Don Pookey, \$24,000	70-69-70-71-211-5
R. B. Eaks, \$24,000	70-69-70-71-211-5
Joe Imman, \$21,173.34	71-70-69-71-212-4
Joe Imman, \$21,173.34	71-70-69-71-212-4
Joe Imman, \$21,173.34	71-70-69-71-212-4
Mark Johnson, \$16,453.34	72-70-69-71-213-3
Mark Johnson, \$16,453.34	72-70-69-71-213-3
Halime Meshkini, \$16,453.34	72-70-69-71-213-3
Halime Meshkini, \$16,453.34	72-70-69-71-213-3
Halime Meshkini, \$16,453.34	72-70-69-71-213-3
J. C. Need, \$16,453.34	71-69-73-71-213-3
J. C. Need, \$16,453.34	71-69-73-71-213-3
Rich Rhodes, \$12,960	73-73-68-74-214-2
Rich Rhodes, \$12,960	73-73-68-74-214-2
Rich Rhodes, \$12,960	73-73-68-74-214-2
Walter Hall, \$12,960	72-73-69-74-214-2
Walter Hall, \$12,960	72-73-69-74-214-2
Gary Koch, \$10,800	71-70-76-75-215-1
Gary Koch, \$10,800	71-70-76-75-215-1
Bobby Warr, \$10,800	71-70-76-75-215-1
Mike Sullivan, \$10,800	71-72-76-75-215-1
Mike Sullivan, \$10,800	71-72-76-75-215-1
Raymond Floyd, \$8,832	72-71-75-76-216-0
Raymond Floyd, \$8,832	72-71-75-76-216-0
Mark McNulty, \$8,832	74-72-74-76-216-0
Mark McNulty, \$8,832	74-72-74-76-216-0
Don Dowd, \$8,832	73-73-76-76-216-0
Craig Stadler, \$8,832	73-73-76-76-216-0
Don Dowd, \$8,832	73-73-76-76-216-0
Keith Ferguson, \$7,200	72-72-73-75-217-1
Mark McCumber, \$7,200	73-75-69-77-217-1

Malaysian Open	
Sunday	
At Sajaana Golf and Country Club	
Malek Ruan, Malaysia	
Purse: \$1.5 million	
Yardage: 6,369; Par: 72	
Final	
Thongchai Lee	70-68-65-67-260-13
Jyoti Randhawa	70-68-65-67-260-13
Henry Henson	69-68-65-67-261-12
Nicklas Ekberg	69-68-65-67-261-12
Nicklas Ekberg	69-68-65-67-261-12
Michael Angel Jimenez	68-67-69-67-261-12
Michael Angel Jimenez	68-67-69-67-261-12
Piquel Harrington	71-66-67-74-262-11
Piquel Harrington	71-66-67-74-262-11
Liann Wen-Chong	69-70-69-69-262-11
Gail Green	70-70-69-69-262-11
Scott Barr	70-70-69-69-262-11
Scott Barr	70-70-69-69-262-11
David Wirachant	69-69-69-72-279-9
Simon Yates	69-69-69-72-279-9

Tennis	
RMK Championships	
At The Racquet Club of Memphis	
Memphis, Tenn.	
Purse: Men, \$50,000 (P); Women, \$25,000 (P)	
Surface: Hard-Indoor	
Singles	
Men	
Kenneth Carlsen, Denmark, def. Andy Roddick, U.S.	7-5
Malek Ruan, Malaysia, def. Tommy Haas, C.2	6-4
C.2, United States	6-4
Women	
Yvonne Zvonareva (1), Russia, def. Meghanna Shaughnessy, U.S.	7-6 (3), 6-2

Diamond Games	
Sunday	
At Sportscenter Antwerp	
Antwerp, Belgium	
Purse: \$385,000 (Tier II)	
Surface: Hard-Indoor	
Singles	
Men	
Amelie Mauresmo (1), France, def. Venus Williams (2), United States	7-6 (3), 6-4
ABN AMRO	
At Ahoy Stadium	
Rotterdam, Netherlands	
Purse: \$1 million (Intl. Gold)	
Surface: Hard-Indoor	
<	

Middleweight Hopkins defends title 20th time

By TIM DAHLBERG
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Bernard Hopkins never claimed he was the prettiest fighter, just the best. Even at the age of 40, he was good enough Saturday night to reach another milestone and win another fight.

Hopkins overcame his usual slow start to dominate Howard Eastman, winning a lopsided 12-round decision to join some of boxing's elite in the record books by making his 20th successful middleweight title defense.

"This was very special, personal to Bernard Hopkins," Hopkins said. "I believe it will be documented in boxing history as years and centuries go on."

In a fight that was booed by many at the Staples Center, Hopkins won easily on all three ringside scorecards to remain unbeaten in the last 19 years. He did it by moving and staying focused and being brutally efficient with his punches.

The crowd of 12,828 might not have appreciated it enough, but Hopkins' new promoter did.

"It's unheard of," said Oscar De La Hoya, who lost to Hopkins in his 19th title defense. "I don't think we'll ever see it again."

The fight was the first Hopkins since 1986, an age when most fighters were long since left the ring. But he appeared to be the fresher fighter in the later rounds as he used an unorthodox but effective style to win the fight.

The judge had the fight 119-110 in favor of Hopkins, while a second had it 117-111. The third judge had the fight 116-112, the same score as The Associated Press.

"Bernard Hopkins is a true professional," said Roy Jones Jr., who was watching at ringside.

It was the first middleweight title fight in Los Angeles since Sugar Ray Robinson and Gene Fulmer fought to a draw in 1960, and though it was lacking in excitement at times, there was no question who won the fight.

No question that is, except from Eastman, who complained he should have been given more credit for pursuing Hopkins much of the fight.

"He ran from me the whole night," Eastman said. "He was the champion fighting in his own backyard but I dictated the pace. He didn't fight like a champ. He never hurt me."

Eastman, a British fighter, has never lost in the United Kingdom. And he's never won outside of it, losing a title fight to William Joppy in 2001 and then losing his second title shot to Hopkins.

Eastman (40-2) threw far more punches than Hopkins (46-2-1), but many of them found air as Hopkins ducked, moved and often made Eastman pay by coming back with a counterpunch.

Ringside punch stats showed Hopkins was much more efficient while Eastman was much busier. Hopkins landed 148 of 346 punches, while Eastman landed 82 of 609.

"They wanted to see [Arturo] Gatti-[Mickey] Ward," Hopkins said. "I don't fight that way. I did in spurts."

Hopkins started cautiously as usual, but Eastman was even more cautious, barely throwing a punch in the first round and drawing boos from the crowd at the Staples Center.

By the fourth round, though, the crowd was booing the champion as Hopkins moved backward around the ring, occasionally posing as if he was going to throw a punch, but then throwing only a few.

The fight finally heated up late in the



Defending champion Bernard Hopkins, right, lands a hard right to the head of Britain's Howard Eastman in the sixth round of their WBC middleweight championship bout.

fifth round — the same round Eastman had predicted he would stop Hopkins — when the challenger landed a big right hand to Hopkins' head. Fighting out of his corner, Hopkins responded by landing a stinging left and the two traded punches as the round came to a close.

"You've taken his best shot now," Eastman's corner told him. "That's all he's got." Though Hopkins seemed to be getting better as the fight went on, Eastman was still throwing punches with abandon and was giving the champion a fight. In the corner after the 10th round, trainer Bouie Fisher urged Hopkins to pick up the pace.

"Get this guy out of there, get this guy out of there," Fisher said. "You've let him hang around too long."

On the undercard, Jermain Taylor made a case for himself as the favorite of the middleweight division — and a possible contender for Hopkins — by stopping Daniel Edouard in the third round with a series of devastating shots to the head.

Taylor showed that he isn't far from a possible title shot himself by taking apart Edouard after referee Ray Corona stopped the fight at 2:26 of the third round.

The 2000 Olympic bronze medalist remained undefeated and scored his 17th knockout in 23 fights in an impressive performance that had the crowd at Staples Center on its feet cheering.

"I believe I'm ready for Hopkins," Taylor said. "I'm a fighter."

Taylor not only landed a lot of punches, but landed them with efficiency as he dominated the fight and handed Edouard (16-1-2) his first loss as a pro.

Midway through the third round, Taylor landed two right hands to the head and then followed Edouard across the ring. He trapped him in the neutral corner and was landing punches at will against the defenseless Haitian when the referee moved between the two fighters and called the bout to an end.

Scott's late putt may prove to be a winner in L.A.

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Adam Scott rarely feels a sense of urgency in the second round, but this was different. It was Sunday in the Nissan Open, with clouds gathering on the horizon, and he was one shot out of the lead.

"I did think this may be the last putt of the week," here," Scott said. "So I better make it count."

Scott rolled in a 20-foot birdie from the fringe on his final hole for a 5-under 66, completing the second round that he began on Friday. That put him at 8-under 133 with Chad Campbell, who has not hit a shot in two days.

Ultimately, all that did was create even more chaos at Riviera Country Club.

The PGA Tour planned to begin the third round late Sunday afternoon with hopes of finishing 54 holes on Monday, even though the forecast was for heavy rain the first two days of the week.

If the third round can't be completed, the Nissan Open would revert to a 36-hole tournament.

"The way the weather has

been, the goal was to get to at least 9 under and see what happens," Scott said.

Darren Clarke, needing a birdie on the 18th hole hit a 4-iron so well that it sailed over the flag and over the green, and he had to make a testy 6-footer to save par for a 68 that left him at 8-under 134, along with Brian Davis (69).

Tiger Woods was two shots behind until he butchered the 18th. From the right rough, he tried to play a fade around the trees, but the ball plunged into the left side of the hill framing the green.

He flopped a pitch to 8 feet, then three-putted for a double bogey and 70, leaving him four shots behind.

Gruber wins, Miller fourth
GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany — Christoph Gruber made up for a disappointing performance in the world ski championships with his first World Cup win in 10 years.

Gruber, who failed to qualify for the Austrian downhill slalom in the worlds at Bormio and then went out in the first leg of the slalom, finally came through Sunday.

He negotiated the soft snow and variable visibility to win the

super giant slalom in 1 minute, 18.18 seconds.

American Bode Miller, world champ in the super-G and downhill, was fourth, 0.21 seconds off the pace. But it was enough for him to replace Hermann Maier atop the super-G standings. Miller now leads the discipline rankings with 375 points, one more than Maier.

As for Gruber, he finished 0.01 seconds ahead of second-place Didier Defago of Switzerland.

The surprise of the day came from 20-year-old Francois Bourque, who clocked 1:18.22 for third place, becoming only the third Canadian man in history to climb a World Cup super-G podium.

Miller padded his lead in the overall standings to 192 points over Austria's Benjamin Raich, who was 10th Sunday.

Jaidee wins Malaysian again
KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand shot a 2-under 70 on Sunday to win the Malaysian Open for the second straight year.

Thongchai, a 34-year-old former paratrooper, finished at 21 under for his seventh career title, three strokes ahead of Jyoti

Randhawa of India. The top-ranked player in Asia joined Gregor Marshall (1974-75) and Tomoo Ishii (1964-65) as the only golfers to win back-to-back Malaysian Opens since the tournament was first held in 1962.

He also led South Korean Kang Wook-song for most victories in the region.

Randhawa birdied the last hole en route to a 67. Henrik Stenson of Sweden was third at 17 under after a 67.

McCollough seizes ACE lead

NAPLES, Fla. — Mike McCollough shot a 3-under 69 to take a two-stroke lead over Hale Irwin and Mark James in The ACE Golf Classic.

The 59-year-old McCollough, seeking his third Champions Tour victory, had a 9-under 135 total on the TwinEagles course. Irwin, the 50-and-over tour's career victory leader with 41, shot a 70. James had a 68.

Curtis Strange, playing his first senior event, followed an opening 74 with a 71. The two-time U.S. Open champ was tied for 32nd, 10 strokes back.

Mauresmo tops V. Williams
ANTWERP, Belgium — Top

seed Amelie Mauresmo beat Venus Williams 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 on Sunday in the Diamond Games for her first win of the year, denying the American a \$1.3 million gem-encrusted racket.

Williams, who complained afterward of a stomach injury, needed to beat Mauresmo to win the gold-and-diamond trophy, which goes to the first three-time winner in any five-year span. Since she won the title two of the last four years, Williams will have a last shot at the trophy next year.

The 25-year-old Mauresmo now has 16 career titles and closes in again on WTA No. 1 Lindsay Davenport, a position she briefly held last year.

Federer rallies past Ljubicic

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands — Top-ranked Roger Federer of Switzerland rallied from a set down to beat Ivan Ljubicic 5-7, 7-5, 7-6 (5) and win the ABN Amro indoor tournament Sunday.

The match was capped by an entertaining third set of winning shots, duels at the net and a tense tiebreaker. It was a sharp contrast to the last time they met in a final, when Federer won 6-3, 6-1 in the Qatar Open in January.

Hawks' Smith and Steve Nash's Suns' quest for sweep

Phoenix's Nash, Richardson win events

By JOHN MARSHALL

The Associated Press

DENVER — Josh Smith went retro to win the NBA's dunk contest.

Smith scored a 50 on his first dunk of the finals wearing the jersey of former Atlanta star Dominique Wilkins, then had another perfect score on his second dunk in his own Hawks jersey to beat Phoenix's Steve Stoudemire on Saturday night.

"He didn't know I was going to do that, but I was going to do a dunk symbolizing what he did in his previous years," said Smith, Atlanta's first round pick in 2004 after making the jump from high school. "He was real excited and shocked that I would do that."

Wilkins, a two-time dunk champion, handed the mantle and his jersey over just before Smith's first dunk of the final round, and the rookie didn't disappoint. Looking a whole lot like "Nique" — other than being left-handed — Smith leaped in for a windmill dunk that left the backboard and rim shaking and earned him a perfect score.

Smith switched back to his No. 5 Hawks jersey and earned another 50 off a reverse-spin 360 — a Vince Carter in the contest.

"I think the whole jersey thing kind of made everybody a little nervous," said Wilkins, who won the contest in 1985 and 1990. "Like I said, he shocked me with that one. That was outstanding."

But it wasn't the only outstanding part. Though former Nuggets player Chris Andersen drew some boos after needing eight tries to finish his first dunk, Smith and Stoudemire got the crowd going with their second dunks of the first round.

Smith started things off, earning a 50 by taking a pass from Denver's Kenyon Martin, who was seated in a chair, and throwing it down with a vicious windmill dunk after soaring over Martin.

Stoudemire did him one better on the dunk, passing the ball off the backboard to teammate Suns teammate Steve Nash, who headed the ball back to Stoudemire for a one-handed 360 dunk.

"That was a good dunk by Amare and Steve, and I knew I had to pull something out of my hat to get by and win," Smith said.

Smith's dunk is previewed on All-Star from completing a sweep on All-Star Saturday.

Phoenix's Quentin Richardson won the three-point shooting con-

test, making his final nine shots of the finals after opening with an airball to edge Philadelphia's Kyle Korver by one point.

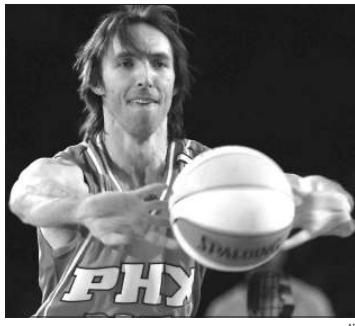
Richardson appeared to have no chance at catching Korver after missing his first four shots, but he hit four of five money balls from the 20-point arc and had the strong finish to close with 19 points.

"In the first round, I felt like I was shooting a little too hard so the first shot [in the second round] I tried to shoot softer and it got a little too soft," Richardson said. "Then I got it going."

Denver's Voshon Lenard, who hasn't played this season since tearing his Achilles' tendon in the season opener, had the final chance to pass Richardson but couldn't come through. The leader after the first round with 17 points, Lenard needed to make all five shots in the final rack, but missed the first one and finished with 16 points.

Nash won the skills challenge, completing the final dribbling, passing and shooting course nearly 12 seconds faster than Denver's Ray Boykins.

Nash was the leader after the first round at 31.4 seconds, then completed the course in 25.8 the second time around. His only mis-



Phoenix Suns guard Steve Nash passes the ball on his way to winning the skills challenge competition in Denver on Saturday night.

take in the final was missing his first chest pass, but he got the second one and breezed through the rest of the skills after Boykins needed four tries to hit a three-pointer.

Shawn Marion, Diana Taurasi and Dan Majerle made it 3-for-3 for Phoenix by winning the shoot-

ing stars competition, making shots from six spots in just 28 seconds. Majerle capped the competition by hitting his second shot from halfcourt to help Phoenix beat Denver 161-149.

"It's fun — we even got Thunder Dan back in the equation," Nash said. "It's great for the organization."

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	26	17	.433	—
Philadelphia	25	18	.434	—
New York	21	22	.489	—
New Jersey	21	22	.489	—
Washington	19	24	.444	—
Charlotte	11	31	.259	—
Orlando	11	31	.259	—
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	28	14	.667	—
Washington	20	22	.577	—
Atlanta	19	23	.556	—
Charlotte	11	31	.259	—
Orlando	11	31	.259	—
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	19	23	.556	—
Cleveland	20	22	.577	—
Indiana	19	23	.556	—
Chicago	18	24	.500	—
Memphis	15	27	.357	—

Western Conference

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	26	16	.619	—
Dallas	25	17	.595	—
L.A. Lakers	23	19	.548	—
Memphis	15	27	.357	—
New Orleans	15	27	.357	—
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	27	17	.610	—
Minnesota	24	20	.548	—
Portland	21	23	.478	—
Oklahoma City	15	27	.357	—
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	23	19	.548	—
Sacramento	23	24	.500	—
Golden State	22	24	.478	—
L.A. Clippers	18	28	.391	—
Utah	15	27	.357	—

Slam-dunk winners

2005 — Josh Smith, Atlanta
2004 — Fred Jones, Indiana
2003 — Jason Richardson, Golden State
2002 — Jason Richardson, Golden State
2001 — Vince Carter, Toronto
2000 — Vince Carter, Toronto
1999 — No competition
1998 — No competition
1997 — Brent Barry, L.A. Clippers
1996 — Brent Barry, L.A. Clippers
1995 — Isaiah Rider, Minnesota
1994 — Isaiah Rider, Minnesota
1993 — Cedric Ceballos, Phoenix
1992 — Cedric Ceballos, Phoenix
1991 — Dominique Wilkins, Atlanta

Young trio helping ease the pain of brawl

By TIM POVITAK

The Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — Images from the Brawl in Detroit are beginning to fade, but images of LeBron James, Amare Stoudemire and Dwyane Wade are coming clearly into focus now.

The three newest and youngest All-Stars already are reshaping the league.

The first half of this NBA season was scarred by the ugliness of the vicious fight between Indiana Pacers players and Detroit Pistons fans, but also unfolding were three rapidly rising teams with three soaring young stars.

Stoudemire, the Rookie of the Year in 2003, has helped take the Phoenix Suns to a tie with the San Antonio Spurs for the most victories in the league so far, and he is the leading scorer for the highest-scoring team the NBA has seen in 10 years.

James lived up to his hype last season and became Rookie of the Year in 2004, but he also has improved dramatically in his second season, turning the Cleveland Cavaliers into Eastern Conference contenders.

Wade, also in his second season, has used Miami Heat teammate Shaquille O'Neal as a springboard, carving his own niche to create championship hopes.

Unlike so many past young stars, they already are winning big. Wade is just 23, Stoudemire 22 and James 20.

"We're good for the NBA," Stoudemire said.

The Brawl in November will

have some residual effects on the league, which has instituted tighter security measures since the court and restricted alcohol sales, but only Indiana sustained real damage to its season. One considered 2005 contenders, they have been reduced to a sub-.500 team after a season-long suspension for Ron Artest and shorter suspensions for forward Jermaine O'Neal and guard Stephen Jackson. They are scrambling to regain their form.

Along with the Suns and Cavs, the Seattle SuperSonics also have established themselves as serious contenders after not even making the playoffs last spring. Unlike the other two, the Sonics have done it without a major personnel move, surprising everyone by riding the outside shooting of Ray Allen and Rashard Lewis.

To no one's surprise, the addition of O'Neal and the emergence of Wade have created unprecedented excitement about the Heat in Miami.

They are expected to add Alonzo Mourning to the roster after the break, giving them another frontcourt force. With the veteran cast of O'Neal, Mourning and Christian Laettner, the Heat will have the top three picks of the 1992 NBA Draft.

Orlando Magic have used the first half to re-establish themselves as a winning franchise, erasing the image of last season's embarrassing finish as the worst team in the league.

The return to all-star form of Grant Hill, after missing most of the previous four seasons recover-

ing from five operations on his left ankle, has become the feel-good story of the NBA this season. His return has put the Magic on course for one of the biggest, if not the best, home-court run-arounds in league history.

Disappointing starts in Denver and Minnesota led to the firings of coaches Jeff Bredel and Flip Saunders, respectively. Saunders had the Timberwolves in the Western Conference Finals last spring — raising expectations — but internal bickering over contracts has doomed them this season.

Vince Carter has used the past month to re-establish his reputation after being traded from the Toronto Raptors to the New Jersey Nets. Carter had soured on his Canadian team, virtually shutting down until the trade happened. He is playing like an all-star again with the Nets, hoping to team with point guard Jason Kidd and bring the Nets back to respectability.

Without Shaquille O'Neal at his side and Phil Jackson as his coach, Kobe Bryant lost some of his luster in the first half. A year ago, he was in a legal battle, which he eventually won. Turning the Lakers into big winners again might be more difficult.

Bryant still is among the NBA's leading scorers, but he no longer is considered one of its most feared players. Without the supporting cast he once had, Bryant has struggled to carry the Lakers.

The entire Atlantic Division has done a disappearing act, proving that one or two established stars can't make a winner by themselves.

Allen Iverson is leading the league in scoring again, but his Philadelphia 76ers are a game under .500. Stephon Marbury keeps putting up great statistics, but after 19 years of playing, Iverson is going nowhere. Paul Pierce is dangerous and the Boston Celtics are leading the division, but they are only one game above .500.

Power forward Karl Malone and Pacers guard Reggie Miller used the first half to announce their retirements from the NBA after long and wonderful careers. Neither, though, ever won a championship.

Miller, now in his 18th season, scored 36 points for the Pacers in his last game before the break, proving he still has a game. Malone had hoped to play this season with one of the contenders, but after 19 years of playing through injuries, he was physically unable to play.

The Houston Rockets, after obtaining Tracy McGrady from the Magic this past summer in a blockbuster trade, started slowly but have closed rapidly, winning the final eight games before the break.

McGrady spent much of the first month trying to fit his game around Yao Ming, but he now has begun asserting himself again, and the Rockets are winning.

The Spurs, as usual, quietly have positioned themselves as one of the favorites going into the second half. So have the defending champion Detroit Pistons. Although neither team has the flash of the Suns, both are known for outstanding team defense.

Russie in the Top 10

No. 6 Boston College, in its last Big East season, topples No. 9 Syracuse behind Jared Dudley's 21

BY JIMMY GOLEN
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Jared Dudley threw the ball in the air and let the crowd erupt. Before he knew it, long, the Boston College student body would join him on the court.

Dudley scored 21 points before dribbling out the final seconds in the sixth-ranked Eagles' 65-60 victory over No. 9 Syracuse on Saturday, setting loose a storm of students who charged the court to celebrate one victory in one of the most anticipated matchups in school history.

"I've never had that here," said Craig Smith, BC's Big East player of the year candidate, who had 16 points and 15 rebounds. "It didn't surprise me because I got it two hours before the game and people were going crazy."

Jermaine Watson went 5-for-6 from the free throw line down the stretch for Boston College (22-1, 11-1 Big East), which opened a two-game lead over No. 18 Connecticut in the conference.

Syracuse (22-5, 9-4) and No. 17 Pittsburgh are another half-game behind Boston College, which is leaving for the Atlantic Coast Conference next season.

"It ain't over," BC coach Al Skinner said. "We were still going to be in first place if we lost, but it gave us a chance to create a little more space at the top. This is a big win for us."

Gerry McNamara scored 18 points for Syracuse, but he missed three three-pointers in the final 28 seconds — two of them airballs — and went 2-for-11 from beyond the arc overall. The Orange have lost four of their last six games, all to ranked teams.

Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim snickered about the crowd charging the court, something usually reserved for big upsets.

"I thought they were ranked sixth in the country," he said sarcastically. "Maybe they just think we're better than we are."

At Boston College, a hockey school which has always been slow to get excited about its revenue sports, Saturday's game attracted some rare attention from the student body and Boston fans still basking in the New England Patriots' Super Bowl victory and eager for the World Series champion Boston Red Sox to start a new season.

The usual rivalry with Syracuse became more intense when Boston College said in 2003 that it would leave the Big East for the ACC, which courted the Orange but did not invite them. Syracuse extracted some revenge with a 43-17 victory in football last fall that knocked the Eagles from a lucrative Fiesta Bowl bid to the Continental Tire Bowl.

With both basketball teams holding top-10 rankings, the

game sold out quickly, tickets were being scalped at many times face value and fans were lined up at both sides of the arena before the game, waiting for the gates to open.

"They were predicting it would be the biggest game in Conte's history," Watson said. "We just have a huge target on us. We're on top of the hill."

The Eagles held a 58-52 lead with 1:15 left when Louie McCroskey hit a three-pointer to tie Syracuse within one possession. But Nate Doornkamp turned Hakin Warrick away with 56 seconds left and Dudley came away with the ball.

Warrick, Syracuse's conference player of the year candidate, finished with 12 points.

Dudley made two free throws to make it 60-55. McNamara shot a three-pointer, but the rebound went out of bounds back to Syracuse and he hit the next one to make it a two-point game.

Watson made one of two free throws and McNamara fired up another from far beyond the arc — an airball that Josh Pace caught and put back to make it 61-60 with 27 seconds left. Watson hit two more free throws, but McNamara threw up another airball and it took the Orange 8 seconds to foul.

With Dudley waving his arms to encourage a crowd that didn't need it, Watson hit two more free throws to make it 65-60.



Syracuse center Hakin Warrick puts up a shot between Boston College defenders Nate Doornkamp (13) and Sean Marshall during the first half of Saturday night's game. No. 6 BC beat No. 9 Syracuse 65-60.

Kentucky rolls over Bulldogs for 50th 20-win season

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Freshman center Randolph Morris scored 17 points to lead seven players in double figures and No. 9 Kentucky reached 20 victories for a record 50th time with a 94-78 thrashing of Mississippi State Saturday night.

Kentucky (20-3, 11-1 Southeastern Conference) posted its highest point total of the season in posting its milestone 20th victory. The Wildcats' 50 20-win seasons is the best better than runner-up North Carolina.

Kelenna Azubuike scored 15 points and Patrick Sparks added 14 points and made four three-pointers for Kentucky, which has won 19 straight games following a loss. The Wildcats lost 73-61 at South Carolina on Tuesday.

Kentucky forced Mississippi State (18-8, 6-6) into 23 turnovers and limited forward Lawrence Roberts, who entered the game second in the SEC in steals, to his first in rebounding, to seven points and three rebounds.

No. 13 Gonzaga 75, San Francisco 73: Adam Morrison scored 23 points, including a jumper with less than a second remaining, as host Gonzaga (21-4, 11-2 West Coast Conference) avenged an earlier loss to the Dons (14-11,

Men's Top 25 Roundup

5-7) and moved 2½ games ahead of Saint Mary's in the race for the regular season championship.

J.P. Batista of Gonzaga had 17 points, including two three-pointers to tie at 73 after the Dons staged a furious rally in the second half.

John Cox had 19 of his 25 points in the second half for visiting San Francisco and Tyrone Riley added 23 points and nine rebounds.

No. 15 Washington 68, Washington St. 55: Tre Simmons scored 16 points to lead Washington (21-4, 11-3 Pac-10) to victory at Washington State (10-13, 5-9). Washington has won 14 of the past 18 against Washington State. Mike Jensen added 13 points and Brandon Roy had 11 for the Huskies, who are a game behind first-place Arizona in the Pac-10 standings.

Freshman Kyle Weaver led Washington State with 15 points.

No. 18 Connecticut 85, Rutgers 63: Charlie Villanueva and Josh Boone each scored 21 points and Connecticut (17-6, 9-3 Big East) used an early 26-5 run to take control against Rutgers (8-15, 2-11).

Denham Brown added 18 points and Connecticut hit eight three-pointers and made a couple of highlight film dunks in handling Rutgers's third straight loss and 12th in 14 games.

Villanueva had 11 rebounds for the Huskies, who won for the fifth time in six games.

Marquis Webb had 15 points for the Scarlet Knights, who have lost seven games in the Rutgers Athletic Center this season, the most in any year since Rutgers joined the Big East in 1995-96.

No. 19 Pacific 73, UTEP 66: David Doublyer scored 21 points and hit a key three-pointer with 1:18 left to lead Pacific (22-2) to its 18th straight victory.

Guillaume Yango scored 13 points and seven rebounds for the Tigers, whose winning streak matches Utah's for second-longest in the country behind top-ranked Illinois' 27.

Omar Thomas had 21 points and 12 rebounds for UTEP (20-7), which won for the fourth time in seven games.

No. 22 Maryland 92, Virginia 89 (2OT): John Gilchrist had 23 points, including the go-ahead three-pointer with 1:12 left in the second overtime, for the Terps.

Virginia had a chance to tie it with 18 seconds to go in the second overtime, but Elton Brown

missed two free throws, capping a 3-for-13 showing from the line.

The Terrapins (16-7, 7-6 Atlantic Coast Conference) twice saw the game extended when Virginia (13-11, 4-9) made three-pointers on its final possession.

Sean Singletary had 23 points and nine assists for the Cavaliers.

No. 23 Charlotte 86, Tulane 67: Eddie Basden scored 27 points and 14 rebounds, leading Charlotte over Tulane.

The 49ers (19-4, 10-2 Conference USA) won their fifth straight game to tie No. 10 Louisville for first place in the conference.

The Green Wave (9-14, 3-9) lost for the fourth time in five games.

Curtis Withers scored 26 points to match his average over the last four games. Brendan Plavich scored 14.

Quincy Davis led Tulane with 14 points, Taylor Rochestie had 12 and Matt Whetstone 11.

No. 24 Cincinnati 72, UAB 69: Jason Mancell had 22 points and 11 rebounds to lead St. Francis Cincinnati.

The Bearcats (20-6, 8-4 Conference USA) had a nine-point lead cut to one in the final minute, but Arneim Kirkland clinched it by making two free throws with 9 seconds left. UAB's Caldwell

"Squeaky" Johnson missed the rim with a long three-pointer just before the buzzer.

Donnell Taylor and Marvett McDonald each had 16 points for Alabama-Birmingham (16-9, 6-6), which has lost four in a row for the first time since 2001-02.

In a game Sunday:

No. 25 Villanova 80, No. 17 Pittsburgh 72: Allan Ray hit five three-pointers and scored 21 of his 23 points in the second half for Villanova, which used a 17-2 run to turn a halftime deficit into a 12-point lead early in the second half. Curtis Sumpter scored 18 points, Randy Poye 15 and Villanova went 12-for-23 from three-point range, helping the Wildcats (17-6, 7-5 Big East) win for the eighth time in 10 games and bolstering their chances of making their first NCAA tournament appearance since 1999.

Ray's three-point play off a tough turnaround jumper with 1:05 left stopped a 10-0 run by Pitt (18-5, 8-4) and ended the Panthers' chance at a comeback win.

Aaron Gray, a 7-foot-center, continued to get major minutes off the bench and scored a career-high 15 points for the Panthers. Carl Krauser had 16 points with six turnovers. Chris Taft had 11 points.

Trailing by 13 with 5:35 left, Pitt went 8-for-11 from the free throw line and got a fast-break dunk from Taft to pull to 71-68.

Even Great One can't revive the NHL

BY HELENE ELLIOTT
AND CHRIS FOSTER

Los Angeles Times

The last, faint hope of reviving the NHL season was obliterated Saturday when league and union executives walked away from a 6½-hour meeting in New York without an agreement — and with a deepening distrust.

Although Commissioner Gary Bettman had canceled the season Wednesday, players thought enough time and flexibility remained to forge a deal and play a 28-game season. But even the addition of Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux to the NHL's negotiating team couldn't lift the sides to common ground on such issues as a salary cap, luxury tax, arbitration and qualifying offers for free agents.

Sources said players felt stung by a "bait and switch" when the NHL didn't improve its offer of a salary cap at \$42.5 million and stipulated the cap would not increase if revenue grew during a six-year deal. The NHL is also said to have cut its revenue-sharing offer, tightened rules on salary arbitration and qualifying offers to free agents, and set a dollar-for-dollar luxury tax at \$35 million.

League sources said the union continued to seek too high a salary cap and wouldn't negotiate a luxury tax potent enough to curb spending.

"The bottom line is they just don't trust each other," a source familiar with Saturday's talks said. "It's done. It's over with."

"This is worse than what happened on Wednesday. I don't know where we go now. The league and everyone involved with it is in a free-fall at this point."

Gretzky, managing partner of the Phoenix Coyotes, and Lemieux, player-owner of the Pittsburgh Penguins, contacted Bettman on Thursday and urged him to hold one last meeting before it would become impossible to squeeze in an abbreviated season. The three met Friday night in New York, where it's believed they discussed whether the NHL would be forced to accept a \$45 million salary cap if the union agreed to conditions that would discourage extravagant spending.

Bob Goodenow, the NHL Players' Association executive director who opposed renewing talks and didn't initially accompany the union delegation, was excluded from the main meeting Saturday. However, he and Bettman were nearby and were consulted during the numerous breaks.

In addition to Gretzky and Lemieux, the NHL was represented by Bill Daly, its chief legal counsel.

"It was crystal clear from our standpoint that we weren't [close to a deal], and that was evident today."

Trevor Linden
NHLPA president



sel. The union was represented by Ted Saskin, its senior director; Trevor Linden, its president; Colorado Avalanche forward Vincent Damphousse, a member of its negotiating committee, and former player Mike Gartner, its director of business relations.

"I didn't think they were going to start up another meeting for failure," Ron Salzer, a prominent agent, said. "I thought it would be the perfect ending: You bring in Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux — the game has never seen greater ambassadors. What better ending than to see these two knights in shining armor riding in on white horses to save the season?"

"I truly believed something significant could happen."

Instead, they were tripped up by their long-standing differences.

"We knew for a long time this is

where it was going," Kings President Tim Lwewke, a staunch backer of Bettman, said. "Mr. Goodenow is very predictable."

"We have rolled over in the past, and he thought we would roll over again. You look at the track record the last 10 years and look at who gave in each time: It was I. I told everyone we owners had put ourselves in this position. Too often we've panicked, given in, caved. Not this time. And we never will. Do I love not having hockey? No. But if we have to exist another year without hockey, we will."

The unity of each side had fractured since the cancellation announcement. Several owners voiced anxiety to Bettman. To sum up the discussions, on Thursday about damage to the league's image and bottom line, and many players said they were puzzled by the union's about-face and acceptance of a salary cap Monday. The failure to save the season or generate enough understanding to schedule further talks could intensify an already caustic and costly dispute.

"I think it's a bad ending," Lwewke said. "Whatever pool of revenues we had to share just got a lot smaller. This is going to go backward. The pain will get

larger, the effort will get larger and the revenues the league generates will get smaller."

Bettman, whose decision to reconvene talks was criticized by a few owners, explained his actions in a letter to the league's Board of Governors, who will meet next week. In the letter, obtained by The Times, he said: "After Wednesday's announcement we were hearing a number of reports that Trevor Linden wanted to hear from us. Since we ultimately want a new collective-bargaining agreement, we did not stand on ceremony and we made contact."

"However, we also advised that the union should not assume that the season would be resurrected."

"On Friday morning Trevor spoke with Bill and said they would like to have us include Wayne and Mario in the meeting. To sum up the discussions, the union is still intent upon negotiating for more than we can afford. Incredibly, the union put nothing new or concrete on the table. At this time, there is no deal here. I was correct on Wednesday when I said we were much further apart than the media was portraying."

A source said players feared that if they had yielded a little Saturday, Bettman would have pushed them to the table.

"It was crystal clear from our standpoint that we weren't [close to a deal], and that was evident today," Linden said.

Stewart steers through bump, skid into Victory Lane

By Mike Harris

The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Tony Stewart drove through the grass, passed his buddy Dale Earnhardt Jr. and wound up in Victory Lane.

Stewart, the 2002 NASCAR Nextel Cup champion, claimed his first victory on Saturday on his 42nd career start in the step-ladder Busch series.

He also ended Earnhardt's three-race Busch winning streak at Daytona International Speedway.

"I had the drama, had the recovery, had the comeback," said Stewart, who charged to the lead with three laps remaining and won under a yellow flag after a last-lap crash. "I could not have scripted it. It was more exciting if I was making a movie."

Stewart, driving a Chevrolet owned by fellow Nextel Cup bad boy Kevin Harvick, led a race-high 46 laps on the 2½-mile oval.

Stewart's hopes nearly ended with 25 laps to go when a bump from Carl Edwards sent Stewart skidding through the infield grass at 190 mph. Somehow, he kept the car going in the right direction, steering it back onto the high-banked oval.

"I couldn't pay the fines for what I was thinking," Stewart quipped. "There were a lot of things going through my mind. The first was, 'What am I going to tell my mom from the emergency room?'"

"It turned out a lot better than I thought it would. I thought I was going to hit the wall. It was just a matter of how hard."

Stewart fell to eighth, then to 17th after he crew needed extra time on the next pit stop to repair the damage.

Meanwhile, the focus turned to Earnhardt. Junior played a waiting game early in the race, content to stay near the back of



Tony Stewart (33) takes the checkered flag under caution in the Hershey's TAKE 5 300.

the pack along with teammate Martin Truex Jr., the defending Busch champion. After the halfway point, Earnhardt and Truex began drafting their way toward the front, quickly moving into the top 10. When

the other leaders made their final pit stops during a caution period with 20 laps remaining, Junior stayed on the track and moved into the lead. Truex took only two new tires and came out second.

That's when Stewart began his charge, slicing through the field and moving to fifth on another restart with four to go.

Then, with drafting help from Harvick, Stewart went roaring past the leaders on the outside of turn three. They held on for a 1-2 finish as a three-car accident behind them brought out a caution for the final lap.

"He deserved to win a lot more than he has, and we're glad he broke that wall down," said Harvick, who will use Stewart in five more races this season.

Earnhardt, who will go into Sunday's Daytona 500 as the favorite to repeat last year's victory, shrugged off the third-place finish.

"That's Tony Stewart," Earnhardt said. "He can do anything."

Truex, who will make his first Daytona 500 start Sunday, was encouraged by his fourth-place showing.

"Harvick and Stewart must have ganged up," Truex said. "They were coming like a freight train, and there was no way we were going to stop it."

Kasey Kahne wound up fifth, followed by Robby Gordon, Michael Waltrip, Greg Biffle, 19-year-old Reed Sorenson and Carl Edwards.

Cup regulars — the "Buschwhackers" — took eight of the top 10 spots.

"We got ganged up on by those Cup guys," said Sorenson, a Busch rookie.

NASCAR spokesman Mike Zizzo said a post-race inspection revealed Stewart's car was too low by a fraction of an inch, but inspectors later determined that the off-course excursion caused damage to the underside of the car that made it too low.

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Even best efforts of Gretzky,
Lemieux can't save season,
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Three for Gordon

Ex-champion
edges Busch,
Earnhardt
in Daytona

BY MIKE HARRIS
The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Jeff Gordon grabbed the lead from Dale Earnhardt Jr., then held off Kurt Busch and Earnhardt in extra laps to win his third Daytona 500 Sunday.

One of the widest finishes in the 47-year history of NASCAR's biggest race saw four lead changes in the last nine laps.

Earnhardt, the defending champion, came from as far back as 30th to grab a late lead, only to watch four-time series champion Gordon pass him seconds before a caution flag waved with three laps to go.

The race went three laps beyond the scheduled 200-lap distance, with Gordon hanging on over two final laps of green-flag racing to beat Busch by two car-lengths.

"Oh, my goodness, what an amazing day," a jubilant Gordon said. "Three, baby!"

Tony Stewart dominated the race for a second straight year and appeared well on the way to his first 500 victory before a rash of late-race caution flags changed everything.

Earnhardt, who struggled with handling through most of the race and then led a lap, suddenly dove to the outside, just in front of Gordon and charged past Stewart to grab the top spot on the 197th lap.

"I was real, real happy," Earnhardt said. "I'm telling you, man, the car was way, way off. It was hard. It was amazing the difference between the car (at the end) and maybe 30 laps before then. I mean, it was really fast."

Fast enough to scare Gordon, but not fast enough to beat him.

"Let's not say I gave up, but I thought it was over," Gordon said. "I mean, he hadn't been anywhere all day long and all the sudden he came out of nowhere."

Gordon finally pulled alongside Earnhardt and nosed ahead just moments before the 10th yellow flag of the race froze the field.



NASCAR driver Jeff Gordon celebrates his victory in the Daytona 500 at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., on Sunday. Gordon won his third title in the event by prevailing in a wild finish.

On the restart on lap 202, Busch, the defending Nextel Cup champion, drove his Ford past Earnhardt and bore down on Gordon.

Behind the three leaders, things got really wild, with three- and four-wide racing and cars banging and bumping off each other to the finish.

Scott Riggs wound up fourth, followed by Jimmie Johnson, Mark Martin in his last Daytona 500 and the frustrated Stewart.

The Monte Carlos of Stewart, Gordon and two-time Daytona winner Michael Waltrip, Earnhardt's teammate, led most of the

laps and spent much of the day in single file.

Things began heating up on lap 183 when Greg Biffle and Riggs bumped in the middle of a pack and ignited a nine-car crash that sent Scott Wimmer barrel-rolling and then spinning several times on the nose of his car before landing on his wheels. Wimmer was not injured.

The race restarted on lap 188, but several cars banged together before even passing the flagstand, sparking an eight-car crash on the main straightaway.

NASCAR managed to get that mess cleared in time for a restart

on lap 196, but there was yet another caution waving on lap 198 because of debris on the track.

The victory was the 70th for Gordon, who barely missed his fifth series title last year when he finished just 16 points behind Busch and eight behind Hendrick Motorsports teammate Johnson in the closest points race in NASCAR history.

"I didn't know what the week had in store for us," Gordon said. "I knew we had a good car. We hadn't shown everything. I knew over 500 miles, with that pit crew, that team, that hopefully some patience would pay off there at the end."



Hawks' Smith goes retro to claim All-Star dunk title

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Stewart ends Earnhardt's streak with Busch victory

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Hopkins, 40, wins 20th straight title defense

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Villanova tops No. 17 Pitt to boost NCAA hopes

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